

# THE TIMES

## Dr Kaunda declares 'state of war' with Smith regime

dent Kaunda of Zambia last declared that his country was in a "state of war" with Rhodesia, being warned by Britain that Rhodesia was threatening to make an "empire strike". Zambia's army is in full alert, arms have been moved to the border and orders have been issued to shoot down Rhodesian aircraft. Rhodesian troops crossed the Botswana frontier yesterday in what was described as a hot pursuit operation. They withdrew after two and a half hours.

### Zambia alerted by Foreign Office

Mr Peter Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, has alerted Dr Kaunda to a preemptive strike by Rhodesia. He has warned Dr Smith that he would be held responsible if violence increased.

When Dr Kaunda sought further details, Mr Callaghan, in Dr Owen's absence at the Commonwealth Conference in Teheran, sent a fuller message, explaining that Britain had wanted to alert Zambia immediately to the risk.

Adding that Britain was making its own assessment, which would be passed on to Dr Kaunda, Mr Callaghan said: "I entirely share Dr Kaunda's concern and do not believe that the matter could be left to him."

Although he did not normally correspond with Mr Smith, he was sending him a strong message - condemning any pre-emptive strike and warning him of the "grave consequences" which any intensification of fighting would entail.

Mr Callaghan has also invited the South African Government to urge Mr Smith to desist from any action against Zambia, and Dr Owen has kept in touch with Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State.

The Prime Minister told Dr Kaunda that he intended to discuss with Dr Owen, who is in London, how the British might be able to bring a broad-based African front to "press ahead". (The British

conflict between Rhodesia and Western Government would stop oil supplies to Rhodesia. He also said he informed other African states that those who are friends of the struggling in southern Africa, notably Zambia, alone, should come forward and show genuine friendship. "We in Zambia now stand by Dr Smith and we shall surrender."

Zambia's military prepared weapons have been moved to the border with Rhodesia in readiness for fight-

ing. Callaghan's warning sent today followed a message from Mr Smith in London, the British Minister for Africa, who was taking place on the

frontier to thwart incursions.

Now that negotiations look like starting up again under the Anglo-American aegis, Mr Smith may be reluctant to try the same tactics in Zambia, because of the political outcry that would doubtless ensue.

Our Salisbury Correspondent writes: Rhodesian Government officials expressed "surprise today at President Kaunda's announcement."

A government spokesman here said Rhodesia had no aggressive intentions against Zambia or any other neighbour but, if guerrilla attacks were launched into Rhodesia, it would not hesitate to respond with "hot pursuit" raids.

He confirmed that Mr Smith sent a message to Dr Owen drawing his attention to a build-up by Mr Nairac's guerrilla forces in Zambia and giving a warning that if there were any "hot pursuit" attacks, Rhodesia would have no alternative but to mount a pre-emptive strike across the border at the guerrilla bases.

Michael support, page 3

Mr Edden said that the Rhodesian raiding force was instructed to go as far into Botswana as necessary but to avoid any contact with the Botswana forces. He said that the Rhodesian Government accepted Botswana's contention that it does not support the PMU.

The PMU were seen moving and the target area was identified as a PMU base.

The terrorists were seen to be in a group of African guerrillas who killed a white farmer, two and two black Rhodesians in an ambush near their base in Botswana on Sunday.

As we were satisfied that the terrorists had fled and the only result would be a punch-up with the PMU, which was not our intention, the attack was called off and our troops returned to Rhodesia without incident.

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## BANKS DEBATE/Broadsheet No.1

DO YOU CARE  
WHAT BANKS DO WITH  
YOUR MONEY?

Did you know that there's a proposal to nationalise the four main clearing banks—Barclays, Lloyds, Midland and National Westminster?

That's what the Labour Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) recommended last August in a pamphlet called "Banking and Finance".

The Government and the Prime Minister are against bank nationalisation.

*• The third proposal, to nationalise the banks and the insurance companies, is the one that the Government cannot accept.*  
Mr James Callaghan, Blackpool, 24 Sept 1976.

Even so, the proposal was passed at the 1976 Labour Party Conference.

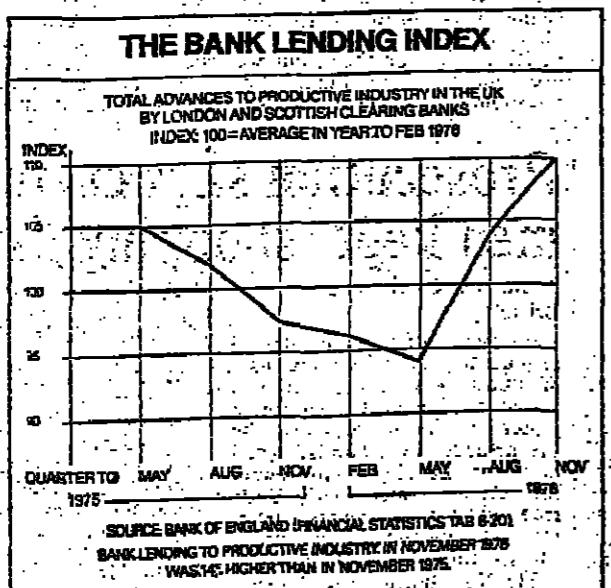
LENDING  
TO INDUSTRY

The whole question of nationalising British banks is a very important one because it affects everybody's money one way or another. We, the banks listed below, therefore believe that it is a matter for public discussion.

To open the discussion we would like to examine here just one issue raised by the NEC: how much banks should lend to industry. But we'd also like to know your opinions. So please let us hear your views, whether you are for or against bank nationalisation.

CAN WE MAKE  
INDUSTRY BORROW?

The NEC—through publicly-owned banks—hopes to double the amount of money that banks lend to industry over the next ten years. They say that manufacturing industry has "grown anaemic" as a result of its poor investment record. And nationalised banks, they argue, could get this money flowing.



But could they?

By the end of last year, the London and Scottish clearing banks had loans out to manufacturing and productive industries of over £6,500 million.

But this is not the whole story. Manufacturers have actually taken less than half the money they know to be available.

WHY WON'T  
INDUSTRY INVEST?

Most industries say that the trouble is not lack of funds at all. The CBI, which runs a regular survey of manufacturers, reported in April 1977 that only 3 per cent said they were held back by shortage of external finance.

This was confirmed by the National Economic Development Office. Despite some criticism of financing arrangements, its report in 1975 concluded:

*• In general, companies did not see themselves as having been constrained in their investment by lack or cost of finance.*

The clue lies, we believe, in another NEDO finding: "... uncertainty about the future is likely to remain as a major constraint on investment".

We want to lend: it is a vital function of banking. And better returns on investment will encourage borrowing. But in the meantime, we can't force money on people.

ARE WE  
TOO CAUTIOUS?

The money we're being asked to lend more generously actually belongs to our many millions of depositors. So we tend to

political rather than by financial considerations. Otherwise, why nationalise?

There could be a temptation to see the banks as a cheap source of finance to support weak industries..

Could a Government minister (rarely in the same office for more than two or three years) provide the vital consistency in lending policies that industry needs?



"WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU BORROW"

We are as anxious as anyone else to improve Britain's economy. But we believe that we can contribute to it more effectively as bankers than as State employees.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION

*This is our point of view. But what do you—whose money we lend—think about it?*

Should banks take more risks? Should lending policies continue to be decided by professional bankers? Would nationalisation lead to better and quicker decisions about lending?

Please tell us your views. We may not be able to answer every coupon or letter received, but please write just the same. It will increase our understanding of public opinion on this important issue.

## NOW TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

You can write your comments on this coupon alone, or enclose it with a letter. Address your reply to THE BANKS, 10 Lombard Street, London EC3V 9AP. Or deliver it to any branch of any bank listed below, in an envelope marked "The Banks Debate".

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_



THE BANKS

## HOME NEWS

## Quarter of Cabinet is fighting against direct EEC elections

By Our Political Editor

Opposition within the Cabinet to a direct-elections Bill for the European Parliament in May-June next year remains stubborn and spreads. It became clear last night that the objectors include Mr Orme, Minister for Social Security. Mr Orme is said to have had open clashes on the question with the Prime Minister at Cabinet meetings at 10 Downing Street.

Resistance is also coming from Mr Foot, Leader of the House; Mr Shire, Secretary of State for the Environment; Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment; Mr Bean, Secretary of State for Energy; and Mr Sillitoe, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Much of the Cabinet argument is essential about the delegation of the Westminster Parliament's powers. But Cabinet ministers who have an anti-Europeanist record are exploiting every opportunity to oppose United Kingdom membership of the European Community and it is not clear that a quarter of the Cabinet are opposed to

the Prime Minister's promise to the Community to use his "best endeavours" to fulfill the commitment to direct elections next year.

The Shadow Cabinet and most Conservative backbenchers appear to be standing firm on the principle of a simple majority, or "first past the post", for any European Parliament election, although some senior ministers make clear that the adoption of any such electoral method would rule out the possibility of the United Kingdom's keeping to the Community's timetable.

The Bill is already drafted in the Home Office, but the Government feels unable to let it take place in the legislative programme this session, which virtually ends before August.

Consequently the Cabinet has first to reconcile itself to the terms of the draft Bill, and then come to an understanding with Mrs Thatcher and the Opposition that any direct elections Bill carried is better than no Bill at all.

## Mr Jackson calls for pay-curb support

From Tim Jones

Bournemouth

The 1,500 delegates to the conference of the Union of Post Office Workers at Bournemouth were urged yesterday to support a further year of pay restraint. Mr Tom Jackson, the union's general secretary, said that those union leaders who argued for a 30 per cent wage increase and were aware of the consequences were a "disgrace to the trade union movement".

While they discuss the issue later this week, the delegates are likely to back Mr Jackson and his executive in giving qualified support for a phase three pay policy.

The union has been a traditional supporter of income policy. A refusal by the 200,000 members to accept a further wage would be a serious setback to Mr Healey's hopes of securing an agreement with the TUC.

Mr Jackson said that after a bitter year his members were faced with the choice of persevering in their search with the Government for a sustained economic recovery or, out of desperation with their present predicament, to hand the benefits of their sacrifices to a Conservative government.

The paramount demand by the union would be that there should be no loss of living standards during the next phase of income policy, Mr Jackson said.

Mr Jackson said: "The Chancellor must understand that we have had enough. We do not want to be paid in contempt of money. Indeed, our opposition to a free-for-all is based on that fact."

Repeating the demand of other union leaders, Mr Jackson said:

said there must be a price policy that bites.

Union leaders who were calling for a free-for-all for personal or union advantage were prepared, he said, to risk economic collapse, hyperinflation, increased unemployment and the repudiation of a Labour government.

Before the union finally decides which way to use its block vote at the TUC conference the delegates will meet again later in the year to discuss the progress of the negotiations with the Government.

Mr Jackson made clear that the union would resist any recommendation by the Carter Committee of Inquiry for the Post Office to be split between telecommunications and the postal service.

Splitting the Post Office, he said, would bring higher prices and communications chaos into the industry. "What we shall see if division takes place is an explosion of management and administration."

Any division, he said, would be the first and logical step towards biffing off sections of the profitable telecommunications business to private industry.

Mr Jackson said the costs of the parcel division were gradually drawing away the lifeblood of the letter service.

"Had parcels not been making such a loss I should have been tempted to run the risk of no letter price increase in 1977... But we cannot operate at a loss and still have decent wages and conditions. We therefore pressed the Post Office to keep the price increase as low as possible."

Repeating the demand of other union leaders, Mr Jackson said:

## Foot view of judges 'historical'

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the House of Commons, yesterday defended his statement that the freedom and rights of the people, especially trade unionists, had been wholly dependent on judges, "we would have no freedoms in this country at all".

He emphasized, again, however, that his remark to members of the Union of Post Office Workers at Bournemouth on Sunday, had been made in an historical context and was not aimed at present day judges.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, opposition spokesman on education, said yesterday that he would prefer freedom dependent on judges' interpretations of law rather than on the "passing whims" of politicians or the resolutions of trade union executives.

The British Legal Association, which represents about three thousand lawyers, asked: "How can you hope to gain public respect for law and order when the Leader of the House himself incites doubt about the fairness of judges?"

Support for Mr Foot, however, came from the Fildane Society of Socialist Lawyers. "The judiciary has consistently limited and denied the rights of trade unions and working people", it said.

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## Tynesiders' £100m dream river is almost a reality

A long-cherished dream of the citizens of Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead of being able to watch salmon leaping from their river somewhere between the High-level and Swing bridges is coming nearer reality. That dream, which first caught the imagination of Tyne-side civic leaders almost 20 years ago, is likely to have cost about £100m by the time it is realized in the mid-1980s.

There is, however, much more to the vast engineering work of cleaning up the Tyne (perhaps more accurately, if less attractively, called a sewerage project) than the substitution of fine fish for the other, uglier objects that nowadays catch the eye of the occasional beholder of its waters.

Not to put too fine a point on it, the 20-mile tidal reach of the Tyne between its mouth and Wylam (where it becomes a freshwater river) is an open sewer and has been one for a hundred years.

Some of the river's most obnoxious characteristics (which the Rotarians noted) have always

been that it is fast-flowing, fed by enormous tonnages of fresh water, deep and relatively narrow. For those reasons, it has been as just about the largest and most efficient flushing cistern in Britain, possibly in Europe.

That admirable natural arrangement was regarded as entirely satisfactory by all concerned until 1958, when the leaders of 20 local authorities recognized that it would not suffice forever in an increasingly hygienic world. Their foresightedness resulted in the creation of the Tyneside Joint Sewerage Board and a plan, originally estimated to cost £20m, which was inherited by the Northumbrian Water Authority and is now roughly half complete, with the inevitable escalations in cost.

It involves the construction of some 40 miles of "interceptor sewers" on both banks of the river, amounting to a vast tunnel system to catch the output of hundreds of direct outfalls from the houses and workplaces of almost 2 million

people and channel their contents into a treatment plant downriver at Howdon, near Wallsend. There most of the obnoxious contents will be treated and pumped into a 1,500-ton sludge ship, now fitting out on the Clyde and rather unimaginatively named "Northumbrian Water", which will dump them six miles out at sea.

Most of the sewer tunnels are complete. The first stage of the Howdon works should be commissioned in the spring of 1979. A preliminary filtering unit on the south bank at Jarrow which will extract rags, polythene bags and other nasty objects should be working by the end of this year. Yet another tunnel, of Northern England.

capture of four IRA terrorists who held a husband and wife hostage for six days. Mr Kenneth Barracough, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who presented the awards, said: "Everyone agrees that these officers deserve commendation. Knowing the dangers and without regard for the personal safety, they all had a part in containing these ruthless criminals, enemies of society."

There is a call for thanks, not only from the metropolis but the whole country, for their devotion in tracking down and bringing to justice these men. I am very proud to make justice from the Bow Street fund. They are small rewards, but made with gratitude and sincere congratulations to you all."

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## HOME NEWS

## Wet Britain still needs more rain to fill underground reserves

By Michael Howell

In spite of one of the wettest winters and springing for 100 years Britain's underground reservoirs will need at least as much rain again next winter before they recover from last year's drought.

That emerged yesterday after meteorological experts had examined the winter excess rainfall statistics which show the amount of water that drains through the soil into the chalk aquifers below.

The excess was double the average in many parts of the country and in some cases underground water levels rose by as much as 20 metres.

Mr Howell, Minister for Sport and Water Resources, is studying a report by the National Water Council which recommends the rejection of a national grid and water transfer system first mooted by him after last year's drought.

The report should be tackled in detail why as they develop. An analysis of the winter rainfall suggests that the debate on whether there should be a grid system has by no means ended.

Artificial reservoirs are full and experts say the country would survive another drought this summer less painfully than last. But the aquifers are still

well below normal levels for this time of year.

A council official said: "There is absolutely no cause for concern because the aquifers are in an improved position from this time last year but for them to be back to normal will take more rain."

"We normally expect to be in a position of superabundance at this time of year but we have not returned to that by any means because of the 16-month drought."

"Curiously, however, because of the amount of rain that fell from September to the end of the year, 1976 will not look particularly dry statistically."

Since the parched soil of last summer reached capacity, the point at which enough rain had fallen to saturate it and drain through, centres throughout Britain have reported record harvests of rainfall.

From the point of view of the end of April, Government-activated winter excess rainfall of 498mm compared with an average of 255mm. Bristol: 580mm compared with 305mm; Plymouth: 675mm compared with 430mm and Birmingham: 400mm compared with 230mm.

Eastern England in particular has benefited from winter excess rainfall above the average.

## Liberal Party aims to raise £100,000

By a Staff Reporter

The Liberal Party is launching a £100,000 appeal on Thursday to mark the centenary of the foundation of the National Liberal Federation, the joint banner of today's party organisation.

An official said last night that the money would be put in a trust. The estimated £10,000 investment income would be used for research and to help to finance a future general election campaign.

A special publication, "Centenary", celebrating 100 years of Liberalism, has been produced and it is estimated that other activities that the party hopes to raise the £100,000.

A commemorative service at Westminster Abbey, a concert at Royal Albert Hall and a dinner for a thousand people in Birmingham, where the National Liberal Federation was founded, are also planned.

This is the first time that the party has received much of its income from donations, intended to provide itself with a capital endowment.

An official said: "It is not easy for the Liberals to raise

money. We have no ready access to 'regular' income, from the trade unions, from the labour movement, from the kind of guaranteed corporate income that comes from the Tories."

Liberal Party headquarters, which has a staff of 12, expects a deficit of £12,000 this year on a total income of £125,000.

Mr Anthony Dobson, chairman of a new and co-ordinated approach, is considered likely to see the recommendations fully adopted by the Government, perhaps to be

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## Number of boarding school places continues to drop

By Our Education Correspondent

A sharp decline in the number of boarding places at state schools over the last 11 years is shown in a survey published last night at the Boarding Schools Association's annual conference in Gloucester.

The survey shows that the number of places dropped from 10,373 to 9,118, a fall of 255. During the same period the total number of pupils at maintained schools rose from 800,000 to just under nine million.

The number of boarding places is likely to drop still further because Surrey County Council decided in March to close Otershaw School, which has 250 pupils. Its closure has still to be approved by Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Three other state boarding schools have been closed since 1970. They are Horsley's Green, Gloucestershire (150 places); Shrewsbury Boys' School, Shropshire (140) and Sheep Hatch School, Surrey (150).

In addition, two state schools whose pupils were mainly boarders, Crowthorne Grammar School, Berkshire (112 boarders) and Trowbridge Technical School, Wiltshire (103), have closed. The survey found that 44 out of 121 state schools that had boarding places in 1966 have stopped taking boarders and, for those that are reducing, their numbers are falling down their boarding establishments.

Mr Richard Perry, chairman of the association, which represents 350 independent and state boarding schools, told the conference: "The scarcely credible proposal to close Otershaw School is a national disgrace."

Two firms for selling banned baby medicine

A baby medicine on sale contained such a high amount of iodine that it had been prohibited by law, it was stated at Hendon Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Mr Vernon Rees, for the department of Health and Social Security, and the medicine, Bala Iodine Chaudhury, 124 Queen's Road, admitted the Medicines Act 1968, and were fined £100 each and ordered to pay £150 costs each.

The survival of a boarding school has implications beyond its local area. If Surrey cannot find the resources to ensure the survival of this distinguished and important school, then the nation should.

There is an urgent need for a national policy with regard to boarding. Boarding is too important to be left to local whim or the arbitrary process of economic development.

Mr Perry, who is headmaster of Ryedale School, Onchan, Essex, said: "This is the most mobile and social disruption of modern life. If there was a well-disputed 'family' of boys and girls who would be enormously helped by boarding."

He said that in 1966 Dr Koyson Lambert, former director of the Darlington Hall research unit, had estimated that there were 91,000 children in need of boarding. "Yet 11 years later, we find that local education authority boarding provosts has dropped by a tenth, and this is in spite of a big increase in the secondary school population."

What is more, the imbalance between the sexes has been only partially improved. At present, where equal opportunity is a legal necessity, employment there are twice as many boarding places for boys as for girls.

Many authorities had had to make stringent economies in boarding place provisions, but parents did not have to be homeless, disaffected or rich to find a boarding place in Derbyshire, Essex, Lancashire, or Oxfordshire, Mr Perry said.

It used to be possible for the thrifty, selected family to choose to afford a boarding education. That is no longer the case.

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## Integrated approach may lead to youth policy

## Decisive government action expected on plan to create opportunities for young jobless

By Craig Seton

The apparent determination of the Government to act decisively on the recommendations of a Manpower Services Commission working party on youth unemployment could establish Britain as pre-eminent among the industrial nations in opportunities for the jobless.

The working party's report will be published tomorrow. It comes just over a week after the Downing Street summit of seven leading industrial nations had agreed that they faced an urgent task in creating more jobs, particularly for young people.

Faced with rising numbers of young unemployed people, Britain has largely adopted a policy of short-term measures to help them to be back to normal and take more rain.

"We normally expect to be in a position of superabundance at this time of year but we have not returned to that by any means because of the 16-month drought."

"Curiously, however, because of the amount of rain that fell from September to the end of the year, 1976 will not look particularly dry statistically."

Developed gradually into an

overall youth policy last month on youth unemployment,

Britain is not the first country to recognise that youth unemployment is likely to be a long-term and structural, rather than cyclical, nature. Some estimates suggest that it will cause serious difficulties for industrial nations for at least 10 years.

In Britain the increased birth-rate of the early 1960s and the steady erosion of jobs in manufacturing present the core of the problem. By September

more than 500,000 of the 750,000 school-leavers will be looking for work.

Last month more than 50,000 leavers who had never had a job were registered as unemployed, an increase of 19,000 over March. The Government estimates that the number of 16-year-olds in the population will

increase from the 1972 figure of 673,000 to a peak of 823,000 by 1981, before falling to 705,000 in 1989.

The British Youth Council, in

any national plan.

The proportion of young people among the unemployed in the United Kingdom has been consistently greater than that in other EEC countries.

By 1975 the proportion of young unemployed in the United Kingdom (under 25 years of age) was 41.9 per cent, compared with 36 per cent in Italy, 34 per cent in Holland, 21.1 per cent in France, and 28.6 per cent in Germany.

Studies by the EEC Commission of the duration of unemployment among young people showed a gradual increase in the proportion unemployed for 12 months or more.

Unemployment, it said, had recently been concentrated on male, manual occupations, which reflected a long-term decline in the demand for manual labour. The disproportionate number of young people in such jobs would therefore tend to lead to greater unemployment.

A delegation from the British Youth Council will meet Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, and Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, in a few days to discuss what initiatives the Government intends to take on youth employment and vocational training.

Any schemes are likely to be given a boost by Mrs Williams's determination that her department shall play a central role, through local education authori-

## Old people in homes 'too protected'

By Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

a small snack, although they are still capable.

In practice, the report suggests, it is often not clear that an elderly or handicapped person will have a better life in a residential home or that residential care can offer any improvement on continuing efforts to cope independently. Too often a residential home is a last resort rather than a positive choice.

Present practice causes difficulties for the staff as well as for the 200,000 residents of homes in England and Wales. Too many of the staff are untrained, unsupported by the rest of the social services, and unhappy with rules and restrictions that they neither understand nor accept.

Despite recent advances, many of the staff will work overtime hours because of shortages and have restricted opportunities to pursue their own private lives.

The report has been compiled by a working group set up by the Personal Social Services Council in response to a government request for guidance on principles and practice for promoting good residential care. Earlier reports by the working group have suggested that staff in many homes are too protective towards the elderly residents, who gradually become too passive to make any decisions for themselves.

In some homes, for example, residents are not allowed to smoke, in their own rooms, climb stairs, drink alcohol, the premises, or go out for walks without first seeking permission or being accompanied by a member of staff. Women who have spent a lifetime cooking for a family are often denied even

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PARLIAMENT, May 16, 1977

## Prime Minister denies suggestion Government were behind smear on Washington Ambassador

House of Commons

No smear campaign has been launched by the Government against Sir Peter Ramsbotham, Britain's Ambassador in Washington, the Prime Minister said in a statement.

James Callaghan (Cardiff, South-East, Lab) said: "The House will recall that last Thursday, 12.15 pm, I was giving a speech about the position of Sir Peter Ramsbotham, his Majesty's Ambassador in Washington. I said that Sir Peter had served with distinction and that I had no criticism to make of him. I added that he has become the Foreign Secretary because he was on the point of taking up his post and that as incoming Foreign Secretary I confirmed him in it.

Since then, as a result of reports in the newspapers, it has been charged that a smear campaign has been launched against Sir Peter Ramsbotham, which "beats all the marks of being governmentally inspired". I therefore wish to make clear that such a campaign has not been launched. Mr McCaffrey (Mr McCaffrey) said at his press briefing a few minutes earlier?

Mr Callaghan—I have answered these questions as well as I can. It was Mr Blaker who named Mr McCaffrey as the originator of the smear campaign and that is the first and only instance to complain (Labour cheers and Conservative protests)—about the attacks being made on Sir Peter Ramsbotham.

Mr McCaffrey is a civil servant and Mr Blaker knows well that he cannot complain about the smear campaign. I am sure that he has been a very honourable one. (Loud Conservative protest and Labour cheers.)

As regards what has been reported, I can assure you, in the account given by the chief political correspondent of the Press Association and not the stories that are written and based on that account, I go no further with what I have already said.

Mr Blaker—My Callaghan has alleged that my role in this has not been a very honourable one. (Loud Labour cheers.) He has referred to what I said a few days ago.

What I said after I had received his letter was that I regret the Prime Minister did not repudiate the smears against Sir Peter Ramsbotham. (Labour interruptions.) I understand that they were based on a briefing given to the press by the Minister's press secretary.

We wish to hear what the facts were.

Mr Callaghan—The letter I had from Mr Blaker said he deplored the fact that this smear campaign—and that was the first time the word "smear" was used—was the mark of being government inspired and hence any inquiries could be made at the end of his letter he said: "We are sending a copy of this letter to the press".

Mr Blaker sought publicity and sought to implicate those people who could not be named. (Loud Labour cheers.)

Mr Nigel Lawson (Bleby, C) on a point of order, said: Earlier in the previous session the Speaker ruled that it was not in order for someone to call an MP not honourable.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas)—Everyone knows that the rules in this House are that it is out of order to cast reflections of a personal sort on another MP. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—What I said was that Mr Blaker's role was not honourable. I did not want to impugn his honour. Everybody knows his reputation in this House. I hope he will not impugn the honour of the press secretary at No 10.

Mr William Molloy (Ealing, North, Lab)—The statement made by the present Ambassador in the United States makes it clear that he has not shown any of the vindictiveness shown by Conservative MPs. He has not behaved in that frenetic manner. He is a far better example of how these matters should be handled by the statement he has made.

Would the Prime Minister, and members of the press, not agree that the statement by the present Ambassador in the United States was a mild one? He ought to come to this House to take responsibility for it personally and apologize for it.

Mr Callaghan—I am not quite clear what point he wants an apology for. I have already accepted full responsibility for it. I cannot say whether he will be asked to make it again. (Labour cheers.)

Mr Callaghan—I am not quite clear what point he wants an apology for. I have already accepted full responsibility for it. I cannot say whether he will be asked to make it again. (Labour cheers.)

As far as other matters are concerned, this calls into question the nature of the friendships given and those who may be successful and it is to that we had better direct our attention in the future.

I spoke to him on Thursday night as soon as possible after I saw the reports in the newspaper—which distressed me very much because although I knew he would not have seen the newspapers I wanted to assure him of the position as far as I was concerned.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Harrow, Townships, C)—Our aim in these matters should be the effect it has on Labour Party membership. (Prolonged Conservative laughter and interruptions.)

Does Mr Callaghan recall that when he left Mr Michael Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab) over the leadership of the Labour Party, he was able to achieve a large degree of unanimity behind his leadership because associated with his victory were the great majority of the Labour Party who had broken from the Oxford-based intellectual élite—(renewed Conservative laughter and interruptions)—which had so long dominated the Labour Party.

There is a great desire in Mr Foot's leadership to take the Labour Party away from this intellectual group. He should say he has not abandoned his original ideas of making a break from the conservative appointments of the Foreign Office and he can now give leadership to the Labour Party. He should say we will have a more imaginative approach, and we will search out the best people in the country prepared to support the Labour Party. Now is the time to reach out and bring these people into Government, and give us a fresh start.

Mr Callaghan—I am sure the members of the Labour Party would not want any unauthorised personal slur against any ambassador and that is the statement I am making this afternoon. The other questions go wider, really, of what I think that the Foreign Office was doing in the past. I thought it recognized the talent that exists up and down the country.

I have explained that there were members independent of the two groups. Two of the independent members should be specifically experienced in consumer affairs and able to speak from a consumer viewpoint.

The form of the experiment did not create any sort of precedent for the Government's general policy on industrial democracy. All the same, this experiment would be very much a test case for the ability of management and workers to enter into a major undertaking to co-operate in making a success of a radical extension of industrial democracy on lines they had themselves agreed to.

Mr Norman Lanchester, an Opposition spokesman on industry, said some people might feel that at best the Bill would make little difference, but he hoped the sceptics would be confounded and the Bill a success.

The composition of the board for the experimental period would be seven management members with full-time executive responsibilities, seven members from the workforce and five part-time members independent of the two groups. Two of the independent members should be specifically experienced in consumer affairs and able to speak from a consumer viewpoint.

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It remained to be seen how far union representation would enable the Post Office to speed up modernization of its plant. There were some sceptical thought it would bring trade union bargaining power into the boardroom and lead to less speed in change, not more.

There had been difficulties over mechanized sorting with machinery

One difference between the two

sides of the House was that the Opposition, for one reason or another, might use the Bullock Report as an opportunity to impose one system for worker participation on industry as a whole. At least this was not happening here.

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Union members of the board should be chosen on the grounds of their experience, qualifications and with whom they could contribute. It should not be an excuse for Bugle to run.

Participation should not be confined to board level. It mattered at all levels.

It remained to be seen how far union representation would enable the Post Office to speed up modernization of its plant. There were some sceptical thought it would bring trade union bargaining power into the boardroom and lead to less speed in change, not more.

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## WEST EUROPE

attack on Mr Mondale  
whole discusses  
judges US aid for  
Portugal

From Jose Soares

Lisbon, May 16

Vice-President Mondale said today that the United States' economic and military aid to Portugal were among the topics discussed at his 12-hour meeting with President Eanes.

Mr Mondale said there were no problems in Portugal's relations with Washington. He said his talk with General Soares this morning had included the question of United States' investments in Portugal and credits now being negotiated, as well as other economic aid.

Discussion of United States aid to the Portuguese armed forces dealt in particular with the creation and equipping of an airborne brigade to operate with Nato forces, he said. Human rights and American use of the bases in the Azores were also discussed.

As a result of today's talks in due recent meeting between President Carter and President Soares, "there exist no problems of a bilateral nature which can now affect relations" between the two countries, Mr. Mondale said.

After his meeting with President Eanes, Mr. Mondale conferred with Dr. Soares, the Prime Minister.

Mr. Mondale had spent yesterday with Mr. Andrew Young, the US Ambassador, representing the United Nations, who had flown into Lisbon to brief the Vice-President on his own recent visit to African countries.

## Warning on limits of EEC resources

Michael Hornby

Brussels, May 16

The EEC is likely to reach the limits of its financial capacity by the end of the decade, even assuming no important policy changes that would increase demands on the Community's budget, according to a report by an independent study group set up by the European Commission.

From next January 1, the budget should be financed entirely from the EEC's "own resources" that is, from the common customs duties on industrial imports, levies on arm imports and up to 1 per cent of the revenue from value-added tax assessed on a common list of items.

The report estimates that on this basis, the maximum available "own resources" in 1978 (at 1975 prices) is likely to be 11.4 billion units of account (4.790m).

The expected budget expenditure in that year of some 9.700m units of account.

Given a continuation of present policies, coupled with some increases in development aid, the budgetary consequences of Greece's accession to the EEC and other items, the report reckons that by 1980 the Community will have exhausted its "own resources".

The study group was composed of independent economists under the chairmanship

of Sir Donald MacDougall, Chief Economic Adviser to the Confederation of British Industry and a former Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury. Its report was commissioned as a follow-up to the 1975 Majorca report on economic and monetary union.

The easiest way of extracting new sources of revenue, the group says, would be simply to raise the 1 per cent VAT limit on member states' contributions to the budget, subject to the present safeguards which prevent any country's budget share from disproportionately exceeding its share of Community gross national product.

A preferred alternative, in the group's view, would be a source of progressive revenue that would assess the redistribution of wealth within the Community. One idea would be to build on the VAT system, for example, by introducing a new scheme, with adjustments for redistributive purposes based on a "key" related to personal income tax capacity.

The report suggests some ways of increasing expenditure at Community level, for example on employment and regional policy, but it does not consider it possible to raise the EEC budget expressed as a proportion of Community gross national product to more than 2 to 2.5 per cent. This compares with the present level of 0.7 per cent.

## Inflation 'not to be blamed on common farm policy'

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, May 16

Inflation was associated in people's minds in Britain with the common agricultural policy, which was becoming a scapegoat in an orchestrated attempt to open the issues which were thought closed at the time of the referendum on renegotiation in 1975. Mr. Christopher Tugendhat, the British member of the European Commission responsible for budgetary affairs, told a Paris luncheon of the British Conservative Association in France today.

"It is absolutely not true that the common agricultural policy is the primary cause of inflation at home." Food prices in Britain had gone up by 18 per cent since last August, but products covered by the common agricultural policy had gone up on average by only 9 per cent. The products not covered by it—fruit, vegetables, tea and coffee—had gone up by an average of 23 per cent in the same period.

## Azores separatist violence leaves nine wounded

Ponta Delgada, May 16.—Tension increased here yesterday after troops, acting on orders from President Eanes in Lisbon, took down white and blue separatist flags flying on the islands.

Separatist militants, mainly of the Front for the Liberation of the Azores, are dissatisfied by a recent decree granting regional autonomy to the Azores and Madeira. They want outright independence and have been engaging in demonstrations and bomb attacks to press their claims.

General Galvao de Queiroz, Portugal's resident minister in the semi-autonomous archipelago, described the shooting and bombing as the worst so far in the campaign for total independence by the separatist minority.

Police reported that a large group of armed separatists attacked their headquarters but were repelled by tear gas. Five policemen and one civilian were admitted to hospital with bullet wounds after the battle, an official statement said.

## Basque provinces shut down by strike over demonstration deaths

From William Chislett

Madrid, May 16

Industry and commerce were badly affected in the Basque country today as hundreds of thousands of workers went on strike in protest against the deaths of five people in confrontations with police during previous demonstrations.

The general strike was almost total in the provinces of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa. Riot police this morning dispersed over a thousand demonstrators in San Sebastian with rubber bullets and smoke bombs.

Shops opened briefly in San Sebastian so that people could buy food. There were also strikes in Barcelona after demonstrations over the weekend. Tickets were out—uprising against movements to close down barricades were thrown up in towns such as Vitoria and Pamplona.

In Pamplona several people were injured when police broke up a group trying to attend a Mass for a man killed by the police on Friday. About 20 of the churchgoers were arrested. When about a thousand people took to the streets in Bilbao, the largest Basque town, police used teargas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowds, which had done in Pamplona.

Senior Rodolfo Martin-Vida, the Interior Minister, said today that the Basque problem was one of the most serious facing the Spanish Government.

The minister, who is in Portugal, said that the Basque country, Catalonia and other

regions would be given some degree of autonomy in the future. Autonomy and a total amnesty are the main demands of the Basques.

The Interior Ministry has issued a statement saying that the Government is to release more prisoners. The statement said that there were 110 remaining political prisoners (opposition sources put the figure at nearer 200) of which 27 are Basques, 19 of them awaiting trial and eight already sentenced.

Apart from the 27 prisoners, some of whom were convicted of or are allegedly involved in politically motivated crimes of violence, the rest are thought to be anarchists and members of the Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Patriotic Front and the reconstituted Spanish Communist Party.

The Government's amnesty applies only to offences committed before December 15, the date of the Government's referendum on political reform.

Since then 80 people have been imprisoned for political offences, most of them awaiting trial.

The electoral board met today to discuss the eligibility of various candidates in the forthcoming elections. The board said that there was no decision yet on whether Senior Suarez, Prime Minister, was ineligible to stand.

The Proletarian Party and the extreme right-wing Basque Nuera have denounced the Prime Minister's candidacy.

Leading article, page 15



This photograph, published by the "Corriere d'Informazione" of Milan, shows a masked youth taking aim with a pistol during riots there on Saturday in which a policeman was shot dead.

## Appeal for 'heroic effort' to solve Italian crisis

From Peter Nichols

Rome, May 16

Signor Ugo La Malfa, who is chairman of the Republican Party and a former Deputy Prime Minister, said today that a truly heroic effort was required to lift Italy out of its crisis.

As he spoke, the violent atmosphere which has shocked public opinion in the past weeks showed little sign of abating.

Shots were exchanged outside the law courts this morning and the authorities: "Only the two people said to be of the extreme right were arrested.

Tension was again high at Bologna University, the scene of some of the worst examples of street violence a month ago.

Giorgia Masi, the 19-year-old girl stabbing disorders in Rome on Thursday night, was buried today while radicals claimed that she had been

deliberately murdered by the authorities: "Only the choice of person was fortuitous."

Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Minister of the Interior, will doubtless answer this charge by pointing out that the Thursday night was out of a refusal of the radicals to accept a moratorium ban on demonstrations.

He is also expected to com-

## Fishermen disrupt traffic in Brussels

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, May 16

A hundred angry Scottish fishermen, led by a pipe playing stirring martial airs, disrupted traffic in the centre of Brussels today. They demonstrated outside the headquarters of the EEC's Council of Ministers in support of the British case for exclusive national fishing limits up to 50 miles from the coastline.

Mrs Winifred Ewing, the Scottish Nationalist who was one of five Scottish MPs accompanying the demonstrators, protested strongly when she was not included in a 12-strong delegation received by Mr John Silkin, the Minister for Agriculture, and Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland.

Mr Gilbert Buchanan, vice-president of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, who led the delegation said later that nothing Mr Silkin had told them suggested there was much hope of securing EEC agreement to 50-mile limits.

The question was not on the agenda of EEC Agricultural Ministers today.

Instead, they discussed proposals by the European Commission for extending the ban on herring fishing in the North Sea.

The commission, supported by Britain, wants the ban to be continued until the end of the year. It is due to expire at the end of this month.

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**Examples:** Retailers or trade suppliers offering credit, banks, finance houses, pawnbrokers and money-lenders, check traders, motor dealers, mail order firms, credit card issuers, life insurers, mutual loan clubs, firms offering loans to employees.

\* You hire out, lease or rent goods to others.

**Examples:** TV's, cars, office or factory equipment or plant, vending machines.

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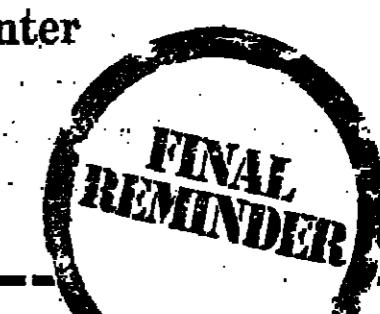
This is to ensure that dishonest traders can no longer profit from people's ignorance, or give the credit business a bad name.

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Or go along to your local Trading Standards Department (known in some areas as the Consumer Protection or Weights and Measures Department).

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## OVERSEAS

New York  
to have  
another  
daily paper

From Peter Strafford

New York, May 16. Plans are in motion for launching a new challenger into the competitive world of the New York press. The newspaper will be called *The Trib*. It will be a morning paper appearing five days a week, and it is intended to offer a "moderate to conservative" alternative to the existing daily papers.

The founders of the new paper include Mr William Simon, who was Secretary of the Treasury in the Nixon Administration, and Mr James Buckley, the former senator, both of them known for their right-wing views. They believe that the *New York Times*, the *Daily News* and the *New York Post* all present variations of liberalism.

The driving force behind *The Trib*, and its largest stockholder, is Mr Leonard Saffir, who was Mr Buckley's chief assistant in Washington until last year. He said today that he hoped to produce a pilot issue of the newspaper in two weeks' time, and to begin publication in earnest in the late autumn.

Mr Saffir was at pains to emphasize that the paper would not be an "ideological puffsheet" for any particular faction or party, but at the same time he claimed that the *Times* had moved "dramatically" away from its former conservative position, that the *Times* and the *Post* had long been more or less liberal, and that New York needed a different viewpoint.

*The Trib* would be a tabloid, he said, but would be a serious paper, not a flashy one, covering international and domestic events. The idea was that it should be easier to read than the *New York Times* and would not aim to be a newspaper of record, but would report all the important news, in depth where necessary.

Finance was not a problem at this stage. *The Trib* would be printed at a plant in New Jersey, 50 miles from New York, using computer technology. Mr Saffir hoped for a circulation of between 200,000 and 300,000 in and around New York.

He is not the first person to try to start a new paper in New York in the past few years, but the city has been a graveyard for several papers as a result of the flight of many members of the middle class and the reluctance of the printing unions to accept automation.

For many years Mr John Shaeffer, a wealthy oil man, has been talking of starting a paper to be called *The New York Press*. Few people now expect to see that paper appear at least in the near future.

Mr Saffir has certain credentials for running a paper which are not likely to endear him to the unions. During the long newspaper strike of 1962-63, which lasted 114 days, he brought out a paper of his own called *The New York Standard*. He said today that he had earned \$1m from it.

Meanwhile the *New York Post*, which was taken over by Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper proprietor, at the end of last year, today claimed to have made "one of the biggest circulation leaps in newspaper history" by increasing its daily sale by 122,000 in just over two months.

Circulation of the *Post*, an evening paper, had been 616,973 on average last week, it said, making it one of America's biggest-selling newspapers. This compared with an average of 480,067 for the six months ending last September.

Briton held on  
drugs charge

Tel Aviv, May 16. A British tourist, an Israeli woman resident in Britain and another Israeli have been remanded in custody for 15 days on charges of possession and sale of drugs, including large quantities of LSD.

Police told the magistrates court here yesterday that Thomas Michael and Anna Rosen had sold LSD to an undercover policeman posing as a pusher.

Mrs Mandela banished to  
remote country village

From Our Correspondent

Johannesburg, May 16. Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress who is serving a life sentence at Robben Island, and herself a leading black political activist, was today ordered out of Soweto and banished to the remote village of Brandfort in Orange Free State.

There was surprise among observers at this action against Mrs Mandela, who has endured almost non-stop persecution at the hands of the South African authorities, just before Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, is due to have talks in Vienna with Vice-President Mondale, of the United States and at the United Nations conference on southern Africa opening in Maputo, Mozambique.

The decision, it is felt, can only sour the talks with the United States and cannot improve the prospect of anything useful emerging from the visit to South Africa later this week of Mr Andrew Young, the American delegate to the United Nations.

The two-day visit by Mr Young is planned to start on Saturday, according to the latest information, but it is likely that the American envoy will call it off as soon as he learns of the action against Mrs Mandela.



Mr Evan Luard, Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, talks to Mr Patrick John, Premier of Dominica, and M. E. Charles, the island's Leader of the Opposition, before the opening of constitutional talks on independence at Marlborough House, London, yesterday.

President Machel supports Owen  
peace initiative on Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford

Maputo, May 16

Western efforts to find a peaceful solution in Rhodesia and Namibia (South-West Africa) received qualified support today from President Machel of Mozambique and other speakers during the first day of the United Nations conference in support of the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Namibia.

But they were strongly attacked by the nationalist leaders from the two territories. Mr Robert Mugabe, point leader of the Patriotic Front of Rhodesia, and Mr Sam Nujoma, President of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO).

In an important speech at the start of the six-day meeting, which is being attended by representatives from over 80 nations and other international organizations, President Machel said the new initiative launched by Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, during his African tour last month could constitute a "positive factor" in the removal of the white regime in Rhodesia, "so long as it has a sincere objective the complete independence of the country."

On Namibia President Machel said that the latest moves by the five Western members of the Security Council could contribute to the acceleration of the resolution of the conflict, "so long as their aim was the full implementation of the Security Council's Resolution 353 on the territory. However, the West would fail if it was only trying to preserve its own interest there and those of the white minority."

Predictably enough, attacks on continued Western support for the white regimes of Southern Africa came from Mr Nujoma and Mr Mugabe, the two last speakers at today's session.

It is thought that it will take all the diplomatic skill of Mr Andrew Young, the American representative of the United Nations and Mr Edward Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, to prevent the adoption later this week of an African-sponsored set of proposals calling for unprecedentedly tough international action against Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa.

In a speech which was strongly critical of Britain's "vacillation and indecision," Mr Mugabe totally ruled out American cosponsorship of the proposed new round of constitutional talks.

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Rhodesia was Britain's colonial responsibility, he said, and any future talks that might take place should only be between Britain, as the colonial power, and the Patriotic Front as the "authentic representative" of the people of Zimbabwe.

Mr Nujoma accused the five Western countries whose representatives are trying to achieve a negotiated settlement in Namibia of colluding with South Africa to protect their interests in the territory. He said that last week's visit by Western diplomats to Windhoek, where they held talks with delegations from the Turnhalle conference and other groups, was "illegal" and in breach of Security Council resolutions.

He said he was against the Western initiative, because it sought to place Swapo on the same level as the Turnhalle "puppets." Swapo would never agree to a compromise unless the Turnhalle representatives renounced their present position.

Mr Nujoma's speech was his first considered reaction to the Western initiative on Namibia and followed two rounds of talks which he had with Western diplomats in Maputo yesterday.

## Court told of shots near embassy

Nicosia, May 16.—A key witness in the trial of three men accused of killing Mr Rodger Davies, the United States Ambassador to Cyprus, in 1974, today said he had seen all three defendants enter a building near the embassy from which the fatal shots were said to have been fired.

Sergeant Stephan Stylianou, of the Cyprus Fire Brigade, said that he had been called to the United States Embassy to help put out a fire started by anti-American demonstrators. He told the court that all three men were carrying guns when he saw them entering a building, about 200ft from the embassy.

Mr Davies, who was 53, and

arrived with Mr Savva in the front passenger seat, carrying two more rifles, the witness went on.

Mr Savva left the rifles in the vehicle and joined the other two defendants. He was carrying a revolver at his waist.

Three or four minutes after the three entered the building, Sergeant Stylianou said, he heard shots coming from it. He saw Mr Ktimitas and Mr Lefis standing in a window.

Sergeant Stylianou then heard a shout that the ambassador had been shot and later saw the three men leave the building.

The trial, in its second week, is expected to last another month. —Reuters

Djibouti elects  
its first  
prime minister

Djibouti, May 16.—Mr Hassan Couled, president of the African People's League for Independence, was today elected Prime Minister of the French territory of the Afars and Issas.

Mr Couled led the single list of 65 candidates who were elected on May 8 to the new legislative assembly. In a parallel referendum, Djibouti voted overwhelmingly in favour of independence, which takes effect on June 27.

A 16-man Cabinet—seven Afars, eight from Somali tribes including Issas, and one Arab—was formed today.

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The happy relationship between the leaders of both the United Kingdom and the United States owes much to your personal brokerage. Yale is delighted to welcome you in the ranks of her honorary alumni by conferring upon you the degree of doctor of law."

The degree was conferred by Dr Kingman Brewster, the next American Ambassador to Britain, who is resigning as president of Yale.

Talks on involving Swapo  
in Namibia elections

Johannesburg, May 16.—Moves to involve the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo), in elections in Namibia (South-West Africa) will be discussed in Windhoek today as whites in the territory vote in a referendum whether to accept the constitutional proposal drawn up by the multi-racial Turnhalle conference.

The Turnhalle conference committee of 35 is meeting to discuss the talks between Turnhalle leaders and diplomats representing the five permanent Western members of the United Nations Security Council that were held in Windhoek earlier this month.

Mr Dirk Mudge, chairman of the committee, said: "The primary purpose of our deliberations will be to consider a report by the financial committee of the Turnhalle but I think we can take it for granted that the Western proposals on South-West Africa will also be discussed."

These include free elections with the participation of Swapo under Western supervision or observation and suggestions on the form of an interim government other than that envisaged by the Turnhalle.

Turnhalle is the drift held in Windhoek where the multi-racial conference was held.

Mr Mudge added that the final draft of a constitution for an interim government would be considered by the committee and would be delivered to the South African Government as soon as possible.

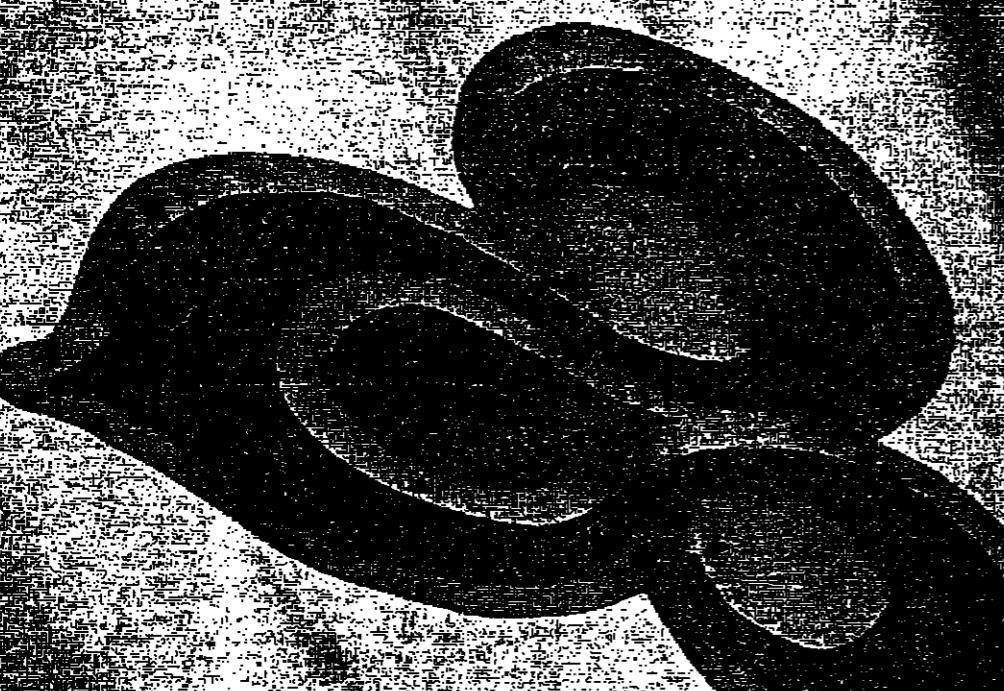
WORKERS SAY NO TO THE SHAH  
Labour Law and Strikes in Iran

T. Jalil

with a foreword by Bob Wright, Assistant General Secretary, A.G.E.U. A new book published by Campaign for Restoration of Trade Union Rights in Iran, ECMS 16, London WC1V 6XZ. 730pp. Price £1.50.

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passenger. Maybe it's our extensive  
routes. That serve more  
countries in the Orient than any  
other airline, and take us all the  
way from Australia.  
to seven major  
cities in Europe. Maybe  
it's our beautiful, slim-bodied  
hostesses in their glamorous Thai  
silk outfits. Maybe it's our Royal

it's simply how far we go out of our  
way to look after people.  
Whatever it is, if you combine  
Thailand's reputation for silk,  
it's little wonder we're becoming  
known as the airline that's 'Smooth  
as silk.'

Thai  
Smooth as silk.

THE  
COMMONWEALTH  
A Times Special Report

This year is a particularly significant one for the Commonwealth: The Queen celebrates the Silver Jubilee of her accession to the Throne, and the first Conference of Commonwealth Heads of Government to be held in London since 1969 will open on June 8th.

On the same day *The Times* plans to publish a Special Report entitled "The Commonwealth". This *Times* Special Report will be essential reading for all those with an interest in the Commonwealth and is a unique opportunity for advertisers who wish to reach the leaders of state, business and opinion in the UK, the rest of the Commonwealth and, indeed, all around the world.

The Report will examine the role of the Commonwealth in the World, the triangular relationship between Great Britain, the Commonwealth and the EEC, the activities of various official and unofficial Commonwealth organisations, as well as the structure, objectives and significance of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The vital role of British and Commonwealth based Banks and other financial institutions in furthering trade within and beyond the Commonwealth will be examined closely, and a progress report made on the activities of the expert group set up in 1975 to explore how the gap between rich and poor nations might best be closed.

For further information, contact Anna Quick, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone 01-837 1234 Extension 7314.

## OVERSEAS

## Eve-of-election opinion poll shows Israeli voters could end supremacy of Labour Alignment

From Eric Marsden

Jerusalem, May 16

Likud, Israel's main opposition party, which seeks to annex the West Bank and Gaza, appeared to be closing the gap steadily between it and the ruling Labour Alignment as the general election campaign drew to a close today. Election day tomorrow has been declared a national holiday and a high poll is expected from the 2,236,293 eligible voters.

An opinion poll reported to have been commissioned by the Alignment predicted yesterday that the ruling party would win 39 seats, 12 fewer than in 1973, compared with 38 for Likud. The Democratic Movement for Change, the new party headed by Professor Yigael Yadin would win 12 and the National Religious Party 10.

The Likud gains were attributed to a shift of opinion in the towns, although the rural areas (which account for less than 10 per cent of Israel's population) remained loyal to Labour and Mapam, the Alignment partners.

The shift may be big enough to end Labour's 29-year reign as the dominant party in Israel. There are already signs that the haggling to form a new coalition could be almost as protracted and confusing as the election itself.

The Democratic Movement for Change, which is generally expected to hold the key, is being coy about its intentions. Professor Yadin has imposed conditions for joining a coalition that are regarded as unacceptable by the Alignment in their demands for domestic reforms and by Likud in their insistence on flexibility over borders. The professor says his party may prefer to stay in opposition.

Without it, the two main parties will have difficulty in gaining a working majority. If the result is as close as predicted, the possibility exists that

they may join forces in a "national emergency" government, aimed at resisting American pressure for unacceptable territorial concessions.

Until the election is over, however, Mr Shimon Peres, the Alignment leader, is unwilling to concede that there is any such pressure. His televised debate last night with Mr Menachem Begin, of Likud, ended in a defensive draw, with the two leaders vying over who would give back least of the occupied areas.

Mr Begin accused Mr Peres of campaigning on the slogan that only Labour could negotiate for peace through the United States.

A commentator in *Haaretz* says the Alignment and Likud have conducted an "uncivilized" propaganda war during the election campaign that "sowed divisions and hysteria, lowered morale and showed Levantine mentality, grossness, personal insults of the lowest kind".

As a result, the public would go to the polls with only the easiest notion of what foreign and defence policy the two main parties would adopt in spite of the crisis lying ahead.

A total of 24 lists will be before the electors but, apart from the Alignment, Likud and the Democratic Movement, only the National Religious Party and the Independent Liberals have any pretensions to joining in coalition-making.

According to a survey, the main issues in the election are inflation and corruption, in that order, with peace negotiations trailing third.

In a final sensation of the campaign the *Jerusalem Post* today reported that Mr Samuel Flatto, Sharon, who is running on a one-man ticket with the frank aim of gaining parliamentary immunity from French attempts to extradite him on the evasion charges, was convicted of fraud in Paris in January, 1975, and sentenced in

January, 1975, and sentenced in

his absence to five years' imprisonment and a fine. The candidate is on bail of about £600,000, pending hearing of extradition charges.

Another election fringe ele-

ment, Rabbi Meir Kahane, was arrested today while trying to set up a Jewish settlement on Mount Gerizim, the Samaritan holy mountain near Nablus. The rabbi has been banned from entering towns in the West Bank after causing a riot in Nablus over his policy of seeking the transfer of Arabs from the occupied areas.

Rabbi Kahane, who is inciting the West Bank without any incitement from Rabbi Kahane today, Nablus presented the familiar sight of closed stores, stone barricades, burning tyres and fights.

Another cause of unrest in the town is the military government's refusal to allow Mr Bassam Shukra, the mayor, to leave for Jordan and the Gulf States in search of municipal funds. The two sides disputed in Ramallah when Mr Karim Khalaf, the mayor, has also been refused permission to leave across the bridge. Mr Khalaf has been denied permission to travel since 1974 because of recurring trouble in the town.

The military government is

considering whether to allow

mayors to bring funds from

Arab states into the West

Bank for essential projects, and may

refuse permission if the source

of money is found to be

linked to the Palestine

Liberation Organisation.

It is unwilling to allow Mr

Fahed Kawasma, the mayor of

Hebron, to install a separate

electricity grid for the town

with money from Arab states.

Hebron was linked to Israel's

national grid during the regime

of Shafiq Muhammed Ali

Jabbar, the former mayor. The

military government's decision

is said to be "an initial reaction

to the mayor's boasting

that Hebron will no longer re-

quire aid from the military

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## OVERSEAS

## Rights of homosexuals put to referendum after Miami campaign

From Peter Strafford

New York, May 15

One of the liveliest campaigns now under way in the United States is in Miami over the issue of homosexual rights. A local referendum is to be held on the subject next month, and it has been having reverberations all the way across the country.

This is largely because of a militant campaign against condoning of homosexuality by a group known as Save Our Children, Inc. The best known member of it is Mrs Anita Bryant, a mother of four, who has been famous for years as a singer in commercials for Florida orange juice.

Mrs Bryant says that she is not against homosexuals, only against homosexuality, but the distinction is not always obvious. "Before I yield to this insidious attack on God and his laws," she said recently, "I will lead such a crusade to stop it as this country has not seen before."

The object of Mrs Bryant's indignation is an ordinance passed some time ago by the authorities of Dade County, which includes Miami, banning discrimination in housing, jobs or public accommodation based on "affectional or sexual preference". Save Our Children collected 64,000 signatures opposing the ordinance, which means that there has to be a referendum on the issue.

Save Our Children has been accused of bigotry, and the whole campaign has caused a

good deal of amused comment in the press. But the group is completely serious and has announced plans to lobby against similar legislation at the national level in Washington, once the referendum in Miami is over.

As explained by Mr Michael Thompson, a Miami advertising man who is one of the campaign's leaders, there are three types of homosexuals, and only one of them is offensive. The "closer type" did not upset him, he said recently, nor did the "blatant child molester" or "child recruiter", because there were laws against them.

"It is the homosexual who is blatant in his profession of his preferences and who gives the impression to young people that his lifestyle is not odd or to be avoided, but just an alternative. All the evidence indicates that homosexuals are not born, they're made," he said.

Mr Thompson said that Save Our Children wanted schools to allow a place to exclude professing homosexuals from teaching jobs, and it wanted gyms to give a place to those who wanted to exclude homosexuals from a block of flats, a hotel, a bar or a private school. Homosexual groups are fighting back, and profess to be delighted by the campaign against them. They are particularly pleased by Mrs Bryant's attacks, because they are so extreme and give them a chance to present their own case.

## Poles' anger over death of student is criticized

Warsaw, May 16.—The Polish news agency, PAP, said today that "political gamblers" were trying to use the death of a university student in Cracow, once the referendum in Miami is over.

The agency said that the student, whom it named only as Stanislaw P., "died in a tragic accident" unfortunately caused by abuse of alcohol.

Students alleged that he was murdered. Last night 5,000 of them staged a silent candle-lit procession through the streets of Cracow to mourn Stanislaw Prys, a 23-year-old literature student who worked closely with the dissident Workers' Defence Committee set up to help workers arrested or dismissed for taking part in food price riots last June.

The news agency said that there were people "trying cynically to use this human misfortune for political provocation". It called them "a group of political gamblers" from outside Cracow, which observers took as a reference to the committee.

The student procession was the culmination of a weekend of mourning over the death of Mr Prys nine days ago. Although he was officially said to have died from head injuries after falling down stairs while drunk, a student notice alleged that he was murdered.

The students also announced the formation of a new solidarity committee supporting the Workers' Committee, and intended to replace the existing communist-controlled student organization.—Reuter.

THE TIMES: TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1977

## Planners must recognize differences between town and country

Most restrictive legislation presents a negative image of the conditions that prompted its enactment. Planning law and practice is no exception. The perspective from which it was written was the perspective of those in an urban environment seeking to inhibit for the future that which already existed in developed areas. The product was the national planning code, with all its ramifications, that is now in force.

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excludes the rural community altogether. Such houses "pass" into leisure occupation—and frequently, for long periods of the year, lack of occupation. The people of the rural community, often with land available, can borrow to build a new house, where they cannot acquire or restore an old one. But they may only build that new house in those existing population centres approved for growth by the planning authority. It is isolated and sporadic development where they want it and have the land to build it.

The problems are not confined to housing. The Use Classes Orders distinguish firmly between wholesale and retail uses, because in an urban environment and economy such distinctions are possible. In many rural areas they are not. What is the status of the bulk purchaser seeking goods for his own farm or private household, and for his guest house, or small hotel, restaurant or shop? How is he distinguished from the man who buys periodically in bulk for his own isolated household or farm? How is a rural community to enjoy the choice and pricing advantages facilitated by high turnover and taken for granted by the urban dweller, when planning law decrees that its suppliers must either be retailers serving a very limited retail market, or wholesalers serving a widely scattered market, that is also relatively limited?

Many rural areas suffer from the fact that they encompass territory which is attractive to national and international tourist traffic. It is a mixed blessing; for while, seasonally, it introduces much needed employment and spending power into rural communities and helps to sustain some services that could not survive at all without the additional revenue, it also so disrupts communications—on generally inadequate roads and railways—as to destroy the chances of such communities attracting industries that would give year-round vigour to the local economy.

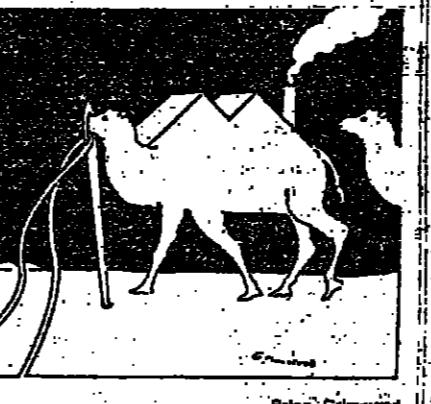
The invariable preference of the planners is for high cost, serviced accommodation constructed to high design standards. There is a limited market for such accommodations, and the funds to capitalize it (and the

benefits which they generate) all too frequently come from outside the rural area and go back there. A local farmer or landowner who wishes to profit from the touring caravans, whose arrival the planners cannot hope to control, faces planning problems that are not far separate from those inherent in taking a camel through the eye of a needle; and the local community has to carry the clearing up costs consequent upon those peripatetic travellers who camp on open spaces, roadside verges and public car parks in the absence of adequate provision.

Other countries—Norway, with its long concern for the continued life of its rural areas is an example—have created codes positively designed to sustain rural communities rather than negatively designed to restrict urbanization. They differentiate in planning control between the projects of the indigenous inhabitants living and working in the rural areas; and those of the holiday, home and leisure market, affording a relaxed discipline to the former and a very stringent discipline to the latter. We need such an approach in the United Kingdom. For while there may be a touch of humour in the occasional case that hits the national headlines—the West Country farmer driven to accommodate horses in his bungalow so that, by virtue of the exemptions on farm buildings, he may build his own home on his own land for his own retirement—there are countless other cases that may not even appear in the columns of local rural newspapers that are causing hardship and resentment. The numbers of such cases are on the increase—particularly since local government reorganization—as planning passes more and more into the hands of a new generation of planners, mostly urban-trained, and away from the now retiring generation of planners and surveyors. For many of them had lived with modern planning law, since its introduction; and had learnt, with eminent common sense if not always a vigorous regard for the letter of the law and practice, to translate into sensible rural terms a code written for cities.

These problems have a relevance to the overwhelming urban political majority. After fiscal and economic regulation, no activity of government intrudes more frequently upon the lives of people in a rural community than planning control. Some part, at least, of the separatist instincts found in Meibion Kernow in Cornwall, Plaid Cymru in Wales and the SNP in Scotland arises from resentment of the impact of planning legislation. The United Kingdom needs its rural areas—or more correctly the resources which they provide—as never before. It should look again at planning law.

David Green



## Reducing the Civil Service means exactly what it says

One of the occupational hazards of the British Civil Service is to be the butt of jokes and criticism, but in the past few years this criticism has swelled to a crescendo, into which a note of viciousness has sometimes entered. One of the causes of this growing volume of criticism has been the feeling that Britain's bureaucracy is bloated, and always seems to be immune from the cuts which other people suffer in times of economic stringency.

Comparing conditions in Nigeria with those in other developing countries, it emerges that the "Third World" can be split into three or four categories. One would comprise oil-rich states with small populations, such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Libya; another, those with oil and large populations, such as Iran, Algeria, Venezuela and Nigeria; a third, those without oil. A further category might consist of nations without oil which have nevertheless achieved a significant degree of industrialization, such as South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore.

Moreover, increased revenue from oil has not put an end to financial problems. Until recently agriculture had been neglected in favour of industry and commerce with the result that food purchases abroad have added considerably to the value of total imports. These were worth 9,628m naira last year and the country ended up with an estimated balance of pay

democracy this right must be preserved. However, the machinery to maintain this right is costly in terms of numbers of civil servants. For example, consider the many and lengthy appeals which are made against proposals to build motorways. In Italy, when an *autostrada* is being constructed, the citizen through whose land the road is being driven may not appeal against that fact, but only against the amount of compensation awarded, which can go to arbitration.

In France only four civil servants are involved in the drawing up of anti-dumping legislation, and once they have produced the legislation there is no effective means of challenging it.

In this country, anti-dumping regulations can be challenged not only in Parliament, but also in the courts, and therefore about forty staff are needed to do the job that France requires only four. The Italian and French systems may involve fewer "bloated bureaucrats", but are they therefore to be preferred?

The value of question time in Parliament is clear for all to see, but parliamentary answers involve a large number of man-hours for the Civil Service. A favourite habit of MPs, for example, is to ask the Prime Minister when he intends to visit a particular constituency, in order to be able to spring a supplementary question on him. Recently one government department alone found that on one day of Prime Minister's question time, 69 supplementary answers had to be prepared, only five of which were actually used. Was this a waste of time? Ask the politicians, not the civil servants involved.

In Sir Harold Wilson's first premiership, he introduced the system whereby parliamentary Bills had a memorandum attached, listing the numbers of extra staff involved in the proposed legislation. It might not be a bad idea if each answer to a parliamentary question had as an addendum the estimated cost of the answer and the number of man hours involved, and if each amendment to legislation introduced by MPs were similarly to be quantified in terms of staff.

Three of the biggest employers of Civil Service manpower are the Department of Health and Social Security, Employment and the Inland Revenue. Their numbers seem to grow inexorably, but, here again, the growth results from factors outside the control of the Civil Service. So far as income tax is concerned, unless the Government decides to inflation-proof the tax threshold, the number of citizens entering the tax net for the first time inevitably grows each year. Again, when you have 1,500,000 unemployed instead of half a million unemployed, you have a million more people to pay unemployment benefit to, and a million more people who are likely to

lose their jobs.

Britons have more right to challenge government proposals than exists in some other countries, and in a genuine and fisherman.—Reuter.

The author is general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants.

Gerry Gillman

THE TIMES: TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1977

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 225 BOXES

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ROYAL YACHTING FESTIVAL



## SPORT

## Football

## Bristol still need a point more on Thursday to survive

By Gareth Bowen

**BRISTOL CITY 2 LIVERPOOL 1**  
Bristol City's struggle to continue their remarkable victory against the League champions and a record crowd of 35,688 at Ashton Gate waited to hear the important news that a draw at Coventry on Thursday evening will be enough to ensure survival.

Liverpool hardly arrived "shipshape and Bristol fashion". They were without keeper Joe Bell and Higginson, and were clearly preoccupied with thoughts of their upcoming finals. Normal league form, however, should have seen their depleted squad muster at least a point against a side which rarely accept the verdicts of good fortune. Which is why, of course, Bristol are propping up the league.

Bristol began tentatively, as if paying homage to the new champions, adjusting instantly and foolishly to Liverpool's pectoral. However, the last 15 minutes were able to win the early ball in midfield and set up chances which Garland and Ritchie both cashed.

The match was no exception, for the Bristol forwards. They should have scored, for instance, at least four goals in a thunderous second half onslaught, and Garland's superbly struck goal in each half. Liverpool's rearguard had begun to crack as Lindsay, playing his first game of the season, was run ragged eventually by much speedier Bristol raiders, especially their almighty wing-men, Whitehead, who is becoming a most accomplished player.

Liverpool waited almost 15 minutes for their first shot, spanned wide by Johnson after Kennedy (Liverpool's most consistent midfield man) had created space down the left. At

the other end the way to goal was barred by Liverpool's distinguished sweepers, Hughes and Smith, but there seemed space around them which could not be exploited. If only Bristol could string some accurate passes together. But their distribution was quite appalling and from one of their misplaced passes Liverpool took the lead after 30 minutes. Neal's low cross-field header was now a consolation from eight yards.

This was the ex-winger's first goal for Liverpool since December 27

— and for about 10 minutes its effect on Bristol seemed catastrophic.

But then Norman Hunter rolled his sleeves up at the back, began to win the ball and his team mates raised their game enough for Garland to equalise two minutes from half-time. After Whitehead seemed to cash the stunner.

Mr Dick's half-time advice was

clearly that attack from all

quarters was called for. In fact

only two brief forays from Liverpool in the last 45 minutes reflected

any of their true calibre.

Meanwhile, Bristol were squandering

possessions and missing chance

after chance in the middle area.

Ritchie dallied, Garland flicked at

the ball, and an instant

later, when Case cleared off the line

after two shots from Garland had been half-cleared.

The winning goal was a simple

after Gills found himself

unmarked at the corner flag,

angled his centre just too far back

for Clemente to get hold of and

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league.



Robson (centre) scores West Ham's third goal at Upton Park last night.

## Robson's fine effort helps to keep West Ham in first division

By Norman Fox

Football Correspondent

West Ham 4 Manchester Utd 2

West Ham United's long struggle with the trials of relegation were finally overcome at Upton Park last night when, in a stirring last match, they found the FA Cup finalists, Manchester United, much easier opposition than they had expected. They were down to 11 men, and the team was not fully involved across the whole panorama. He was less than a yard wide with a fierce shot that was the first sign that West Ham were not going to take their early setback without massive counter-action.

After threatening to rest several of his players to be sure of their fitness for Wembley on Saturday, Pearson was still on the scene when Spurrier was promoted from the first division after 27 years. West Ham and, across town, Queen's Park Rangers, were playing not only for themselves but also to help save the face of the game.

West Ham's 11th man, after the restart, was the 10th to be sent off, and the team was down to 10 men.

After the break, Pearson's team had to cope with a goal from the 10th man, and the 11th man, and the 12th man, and the 13th man, and the 14th man, and the 15th man, and the 16th man, and the 17th man, and the 18th man, and the 19th man, and the 20th man, and the 21st man, and the 22nd man, and the 23rd man, and the 24th man, and the 25th man, and the 26th man, and the 27th man, and the 28th man, and the 29th man, and the 30th man, and the 31st man, and the 32nd man, and the 33rd man, and the 34th man, and the 35th man, and the 36th man, and the 37th man, and the 38th man, and the 39th man, and the 40th man, and the 41st man, and the 42nd man, and the 43rd man, and the 44th man, and the 45th man, and the 46th man, and the 47th man, and the 48th man, and the 49th man, and the 50th man, and the 51st man, and the 52nd man, and the 53rd man, and the 54th man, and the 55th man, and the 56th man, and the 57th man, and the 58th man, and the 59th man, and the 60th man, and the 61st man, and the 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PORT

strangers  
ending under the sun

## The Minstrel on course for Epsom

Michael Phillips  
Racing Correspondent

in the interval form, this has been more than a drop in the water of the right road. Frequent have been the signs when you have taken the wrong way, and been truly lost. But the Minstrel is now in the form of a person who is about to emerge and who should become marginally in the future.

Desmond Stoenham remarked

Sunday, the outcome of Sun-

day's St Leger was a brilliant

one for Sir Michael, who

and his stablemates have

three-year-old colts to train

where. Pharis, the winner of

Lupin twice this season,

Crystal Palace, the colt who

had Pharis, on Sunday,

Blaauw Groen, and the

third in the Linlith. Water

also paid his own eloquent

to Blaauw Groen, as in

the first, on Saturday, the

and the Prix de

Ireland, which was run over

at Longchamp, April,

Boy, Pharis and Air Per-

all finished

third and fourth

respectively.

It still remains to be seen,

whether Blaauw Groen

will turn out to be as

a quarter of a mile and a half

he has already shown himself

over a mile. It is a question

will continue to fascinate

the jockeys until the horse

comes up with the answer.

olverhampton programme

VIADUCT STAKES (2-y-o maiden fillies: Div I: £611: 50)

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B. S. Phillips, 8-11. S. Cook, 8-11

J. T. H. Edwards, 8-11. S. Cook, 8-11



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## THE POSTMAN'S RIGHT TO STRIKE

In spite of Mr Michael Foot's strictures in his speech on Sunday, the judiciary have not yet made any ruling on the right of Post Office workers to strike. Since he spoke of the erosion of parliamentary decisions it may be worth observing that in the case he clearly had in mind, despite disclaimers, the judges showed more respect for statute than the Attorney General did. The Goulet case is still under appeal, and as it has developed it only peripherally affects the rights of postal workers. Mr Goulet could not have brought his civil action against the UPW if they had been acting in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute (as defined pretty broadly by the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974), instead of attempting, as they were, to mount a political boycott of a foreign country.

The right of postal workers to strike in their own interest is dubious. It was not seriously disputed during their 47-day strike in 1971, though Professor K. W. Wedderburn did draw attention at the outset to the fact that the Post Office Act, 1953 made it an offence punishable with imprisonment for any officer of the Post Office who "contrary to his duty wilfully detains or delays" any postal packet, or solicits another to do so. That seems plain enough on the face of it, though contracts of employment referred to procedures for industrial disputes, or anything of the kind, it might be possible to argue that striking

was not "contrary to duty". But from the discomfit of Mr Tom Jackson has shown it must be supposed that this would not be easy.

Postal workers and policemen are almost alone among civilians in being denied the right to strike. Gas, water and electricity workers had similar disabilities removed by the Industrial Relations Act, 1971. The police obviously have special responsibilities and disciplines. But it is difficult to argue that postal workers are more like the police than power workers. The consequences of a Post Office strike would be economically grave and could well be dangerous if, for instance, emergency telephone calls to doctors were obstructed. But the dangers of a gas- or electricity strike, especially in winter, are probably greater.

If, in our society, workers in these categories feel an urgent grievance over their working conditions or pay, it is in practice impossible to prevent them striking. Postal workers in the East End were striking only a few weeks ago over overtime schedules. The Government and the Post Office Corporation no more thought of taking them to court than Mr Heath's government did in 1971. It would have been folly to try.

Unenforceable law is bad law, but a simple amending Bill would not be objectionable. But two reservations need to be made. Unlike electricity and gas supply (and unlike tele-

communications, too, these days postal services are uniquely well fitted for putting individual pressure on anyone anywhere. A postmen's boycott would rapidly paralyse many kinds of enterprise and could be a cruel means of victimisation. The recent case of Grunwick Laboratories shows that the union, if the law allowed, would not necessarily resist TUC pressure to apply such a boycott even in disputes in which it had no direct concern. Sympathetic "blacklisting" is a common, though often objectionable, union tactic. In the special circumstances of the postal service it would be an oppressive weapon, and legal sanctions against it are neither superfluous nor unenforceable.

In the 1971 strike the Government rightly suspended the Post Office's monopoly of the mails so that others could offer some kind of alternative service. A government of a different complexion might have done so less readily. Any amending Act should make the suspension automatic for the duration of any major postal strike. The statutory monopoly was originally created to protect communications from the caprice of sectional interest, and if instead it makes them prey to it, it should be withdrawn. This is a rule that should apply generally, indeed, and not only in the Post Office. A monopoly, whether in the mails, on the roads or elsewhere, can only be justified as long as and if it serves the interest of the public.

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## PROGRESS OF THE KING OF SPAIN

The Spanish road to democracy is full of stumbling-blocks and potholes. King Juan Carlos and his government have not avoided them. They have stumbled many times, and each time the watching world has gasped and held its breath. Each time the pundits have nodded their heads and said, "Aha! We told you it wouldn't be so easy." In fact, no one believed it would be easy, and almost no one believed the young King would be equal to the task. Observers were divided into those who thought he had no intention of going beyond a facade of democratization, and those who thought he would like to go further but lacked the intelligence, or the determination, or simply the power to put his wishes into effect. Was he not the heir of Franco, owing his throne purely to Franco's will, surrounded on all sides and closely watched by Franco's lieutenants?

The fact is that we all underrated both his sincerity and his political skill. Indeed, if he learned anything from his education at Franco's court it must have been not the official conservative and authoritarian doctrine but the art of politics itself, and also, in great detail, the characters of the individual courtiers who could be relied on, and for what tasks. And so, by skilfully naming the right men to the right jobs at the right times, "Juan Carlos el Breve" — the king who, according to the wits, would be enthroned and dethroned within the same week — has not only stayed on the throne for eighteen months but

has brought his country to within one month of a free general election. The "king of July 18" (heir, that is, of the military uprising of 1936) is now the legitimate heir of the Bourbons, by consent of his father who was always rightly convinced that the monarchy would survive in Spain only if it became constitutional.

Even more strikingly, he has won the allegiance of democratic opposition leaders (among whom one may hesitantly class those of the Communist Party) whose background and prejudices are definitely republican, and who eighteen months ago were convinced that reform of the dictatorship from within was not possible, that a "democratic rupture" was essential, who, even last autumn, were warning their homologues in other West European countries not to be taken in by the "pseudo-reform" of the Suárez government.

The choice of Señor Suárez as prime minister was no doubt the shrewdest single move the King has made, and since Señor Suárez has somehow chambered out of all the previous potholes with an enhanced reputation, it would be foolish to suppose that he will not get himself into the one he is at present negotiating in the Basque country, although that undoubtedly is. The Basques are demanding an amnesty for their remaining political prisoners, who are said by the government to number only twenty-seven, and to be perpetrators of violent crimes. There seems to be a serious danger that, if this request is

not granted, or at least if some compromise is not found, the Basque political parties will boycott the elections — thereby endangering the legitimacy of the election result for the country as a whole.

The Basques do not accept that all the people concerned were directly implicated in acts of violence. Some have not yet stood trial, others were convicted under very summary procedures, yet others were not proved to have personally inflicted death or injury. But even those who did, the Basques say, were only exercising a right recognized in constitutions and Bills of rights around the world, the right to resist oppression. That the Basque country was oppressed under Franco could hardly be denied. Nor can it be denied that traces of that oppression still remain, in the shape of habits formed by the police and the civil guard over many years and, alas, not easily unlearnt.

An amnesty covering crimes of violence against the dictatorship can logically be expected at some point, though it is understandable that the government should wish to wait until the elections are safely over rather than risk provoking further discontent among the forces of law and order now, and certainly understandable that it should take a less lenient view of crimes of violence committed while its own efforts to introduce democracy in already difficult circumstances were under way. The Basques should have the good sense to recognize these points and a sensible compromise should be reached.

## MISTAKEN?

ingredient of the offence. His view appears to be supported by a 1935 case in the Court of Appeal, R. v. Wicks. But there is also a great deal of case-law, and legal opinion, in text-books and elsewhere, suggesting that, unless there is a threat to the peace, a charge of criminal libel should not be brought. That interpretation is to be preferred. The person defamed can bring a civil action for damages for libel, and the criminal law should not step in where the dispute is essentially between two parties, the wronged one of whom does not remain without a remedy. In other words, for a criminal prosecution to lie, there should be some element which carries the case outside the confines of a bilateral dispute and gives it a public dimension, necessitating the possibility of penal intervention by the state. It is a pity that the higher courts were not given a chance to declare the law on this narrow, but important point.

From Mr David Rosen

Sir, The scarcity of cyclists on the cycle tracks along the Oxford ring road (Letters, May 11) is a reflection on the planners, rather than the cyclists. Unless one is very fit, the bicycle is a short distance vehicle, ideal for journeys between one and five miles. Thus it is not surprising that few cyclists use the ring road, as it is mainly of use to vehicles by-passing Oxford on a long journey. Any cyclist on such a trip would in any case tend to go through the town in order to reduce distance.

If Mr Leeming were to visit Oxford, he would find the missing bicycles engaged in travelling about the town. It is here that the bicycle is most useful and where provision for cyclists must be made.

Yours faithfully,  
HOWARD N. BOYD,  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents,  
Common House,  
The Priory Queensway,  
Birmingham,  
May 12

and the breach of the peace element was not a necessary ingredient of the offence. His view appears to be supported by a 1935 case in the Court of Appeal, R. v. Wicks. But there is also a great deal of case-law, and legal opinion, in text-books and elsewhere, suggesting that, unless there is a threat to the peace, a charge of criminal libel should not be brought. That interpretation is to be preferred. The person defamed can bring a civil action for damages for libel, and the criminal law should not step in where the dispute is essentially between two parties, the wronged one of whom does not remain without a remedy. In other words, for a criminal prosecution to lie, there should be some element which carries the case outside the confines of a bilateral dispute and gives it a public dimension, necessitating the possibility of penal intervention by the state. It is a pity that the higher courts were not given a chance to declare the law on this narrow, but important point.

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Yours faithfully,  
DAVID ROSEN,  
Imperial College of Science and Technology,  
Astronomy Group,  
Prince Consort Road, SW7,  
May 12

so that he has no chance to take up the correct road position for his manoeuvre.

Planners now recognize that facilities for cyclists must be continuous at junctions, and at Stevenage New Town cycle routes have their own junctions, often in the "dead" area in the centre of roundabouts.

Although special facilities for cyclists have great possibilities for making cycling safer and more pleasant, the majority of cycling will always take place on general-purpose roads. Drivers should remember that cyclists have every right to use the road in safety, and should be given every chance to do so.

Yours faithfully,  
HOWARD N. BOYD,  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents,  
Common House,  
The Priory Queensway,  
Birmingham,  
May 12

## Planning for bicycles

From Mr Howard N. Boyd

Sir, Mr J. J. Leeming's letter (May 11) raises an interesting point about the cycle paths which line many of our pre-war dual carriageways.

Cyclists have found from experience that their surfaces are usually inadequately maintained and often covered with broken glass or fine gravel from the carriageway.

There is a chain reaction — as the usage declines, so local authorities are less disposed to spend ratepayers' money on maintenance, and clearance.

A far more serious objection is that these cycle paths protect cyclists where they need least protection — along uninterrupted stretches of road. The vast majority of accidents involving cyclists occur at junctions, and roundabouts are particularly dangerous to cyclists.

The pre-war cycle paths characteristically stop just short of every junction and propel the cyclist into the maelstrom of the traffic, often

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Next Ambassador in Washington

From Sir Ian Gilmour, MP for Chesham and Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, You criticize me (*The Times*, May 16), in a friendly way, for having drawn attention to the blatant jobbery involved in the precipitate removal of our excellent Ambassador in Washington and his replacement by Mr Peter Jay. Yet Mr Jay's appointment is surely the most spectacular act of nepotism for decades, and your remark that "the fact that Mr Jay is the Prime Minister's son-in-law has nothing to do with it" is astonishing. Nepotism can of course be defended as a good way of bringing young and able people like Mr Jay, though that is certainly not a Socialist view. But to imply, as you and others have done, that, because the beneficiary is an able man, there is no nepotism, is untrue. Do you seriously believe that if Mr Jay had not been the son-in-law of the Prime Minister and the close friend of the Foreign Secretary, he would have been given the post of Ambassador? Of course he would not even have been considered.

While Mr Jay's considerable abilities are undoubtedly, they will not necessarily make him a good Ambassador. Moreover, his reported opposition to Concorde, his distaste for the EEC and his evident belief that the British political and economic systems are doomed, hardly make him an obvious choice as the protagonist in America of present day Britain. We must all hope, nevertheless, that Mr Jay will be successful in Washington. Even so, patronage is patronage, and nepotism is nepotism, and nothing is gained by hailing them as triumphant meritocracy.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
IAN GILMOUR,  
House of Commons.

May 15.

From Miss Susan Hart

Sir, I confess that I too am "shocked" over the issue of Mr Peter Jay's appointment as Ambassador to Washington. The apparent chorus of outcry is another example of dismatory so often afflicting parliamentary debate — another case of much ado about nothing, or, in the case of the Opposition, building mountains from the depths of a molehill. As for the appointment itself, it is an excellent choice made after all, by the man best qualified to choose ambassadorial material, the Foreign Secretary.

It is a sorry comment, indeed, on parliamentary judgment (another manifestation of the "English disease", perhaps), to suggest that Mr Jay should refuse the post simply because he is married to a woman whose father happened to become Prime Minister. Furthermore, nepotism of which Callaghan is accused, is the bestowal of undue favour. To my mind Mr Jay is due every bit of the favour, involving a 50 per cent cut in earnings, he is about to receive for the excellence of his work as a newspaper and television journalist, both here and in the United States, and for his contributions while a civil servant.

Do not forget either that he is being sent to Washington, DC. Not enough has been said about the reaction his appointment will generate in that community and surely this will be a paramount consideration in the choice of an Ambassador. Not only is he known to and respected by East Coast government officials, diplomats, and journalists, but his visit to the White House, and his stay in the United States, and for his contributions while a civil servant.

Do not forget either that he is being sent to Washington, DC. Not enough has been said about the reaction his appointment will generate in that community and surely this will be a paramount consideration in the choice of an Ambassador. Not only is he known to and respected by East Coast government officials, diplomats, and journalists, but his visit to the White House, and his stay in the United States, and for his contributions while a civil servant.

Finally, do not underestimate the new mood abroad in Washington, and in the land. The fact that Mr Jay is a member of the Prime

Minister's family will undoubtedly be seen as a complimentary gesture in respect of Mr Carter's open and honest approach to government administration, international diplomacy, and indeed Anglo-American relations. If we are to believe what we have read about the Callaghans' Carter rapport, then the family tie is, if anything, an added plus in Mr Jay's favour.

SUSAN HART,  
64 Windsor Road, N7.

From Sir Jack Lyons

Sir, As Britain's Chairman of the Bicentennial Arts Committee (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) which was responsible for most of our country's tributes to the United States of America in 1976, there were several occasions when I worked closely with Sir Peter Ramsbotham in Washington.

I found that not only was he personally respected by the Americans I met in government and those associated with the arts and education, but that he earned a high level of respect and esteem for Great Britain during one of the most difficult periods of our history.

He achieved this by his immense dedication to his job and because of his natural and friendly way of getting to the hearts and minds of Americans in numerous cities, towns and villages across that vast continent.

His knowledge and appreciation of the arts brought Sir Peter into close contact with the cultural life of America which helped to maintain and enhance further the cultural and common heritage of our two nations.

His successor, no doubt deserving of the post, has a great Ambassador to follow and to emulate.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK LYONS,  
Blundell House,  
2 Campden Hill, NW8.

From Mr George Ivan Smith

Sir, The record of Sir Peter Ramsbotham requires no defence, however it is fitting that I should record the vitally important role that he played during the Suez crisis. I happened to be one of a small team working with Haig and Skidell throughout that period. I can attest that Sir Peter did more to heal the bridge and to comprehend the dimensions of the crisis than any other British or French diplomat. In fact, he did more to resolve the terrible problem than any other diplomat involved in the crisis.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE IVAN SMITH,  
Home Farm,  
Lypiatt, near Stroud,  
Gloucestershire.

From Lord Philip Noel-Baker

Sir, My Philip Noel-Baker (May 13) quotes ample precedents (another manifestation of the "English disease", perhaps), to suggest that Mr Jay should refuse the post simply because he is married to a woman whose father happened to become Prime Minister. Furthermore, nepotism of which Callaghan is accused, is the bestowal of undue favour. To my mind Mr Jay is due every bit of the favour, involving a 50 per cent cut in earnings, he is about to receive for the excellence of his work as a newspaper and television journalist, both here and in the United States, and for his contributions while a civil servant.

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### Heredity factors in earning capacity

From Professor H. J. Eysenck

Sir, Neville Hodgkinson's account in your Friday issue (May 13) of the important work done by geneticists to document the overwhelming importance of genetic factors in determining differences in earnings, social status, and other socio-economic characteristics does not mention one issue which powerfully impressed me when I was giving evidence on these points to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth.

The members of the Commission are politicians, industrialists, trades unionists, economists, sociologists and the like, not one a psychologist, biologist, or geneticist! This disjunction is bound to affect the deliberations and conclusions of the commission, and in spite of the strength of the biological factors in determining the differences in earnings which are the subject of the whole enterprise, it seems unlikely that the commission is in a position to do justice to these factors, or discuss their contribution knowledgeably.

This strange and somewhat odd situation illustrates well the swing of the pendulum which has elevated environmentalistic doctrines, however poorly supported, into positions of influence and prestige, and relegated biological teachings, however strongly supported by experiment and analysis, to the backwater of intellectual debate. By the same token, we find environmentalistic studies, however poorly designed and planned, supported by universities and research grant-giving bodies, while there is little money for demonstrably important genetic and generally biological behavioural investigations.

The almost indecent growth of sociology departments during the past dozen years, leading to sad devaluation of academic criteria in that subject, has not been paralleled by a similar growth in the number of genetics departments: behavioural genetics in particular is almost confined to two or three

departments in this country, with little prospect of growth.

I would like to suggest that it is time for the pendulum to start swinging in the opposite direction — hopefully without overshooting the desirable middle mark where both genetic and environmental influences are given the weight they deserve on factual grounds! As a beginning, perhaps the commission might be persuaded to add some psychological, genetic and general biological expertise to their number; I am sure that their deliberations will be much aided by such an addition!

Yours truly,  
H. J. EYSENCK,  
Department of Psychology,  
Institute of Psychiatry,  
De Crespigny Park,  
Denmark Hill, SE5.</p



## COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE  
May 16: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The Lady Susan Hussey, Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson and Major Robin Brock were in attendance.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Royal Train for the Silver Jubilee Visit to Scotland.

The Countess of Airlie, Lieutenant-Colonel The Right Hon Sir Martin Charteris, Sir Philip Morris, Mr Michael Wall and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh attended by Lieutenant-Commander Anthony Blackburn, RN, was present this evening at the Royal Air Force Ex-Prisoners of War Association Dinner at Dunster House, Mark Lane, EC3.

The Prince of Wales left Heathrow Airport, London, this morning in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN.

Princess Alexandra and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a Fiduciary Rally, in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, at the Town Hall, Euston.

KENSINGTON PALACE  
May 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this evening

was in attendance.

Luncheons

HM Government

Mr. Edmund Dell, Secretary of State, Department of Trade, was host at a luncheon held at the Atheneum Hotel yesterday in honour of Dr. Shikaku Usuki, Brazilian Minister for Mines and Energy.

Ministry of Defence

Sir Frank Cooper, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, and Sir Clifford Cornford, Chief of Defence Procurement, were hosts at a luncheon given by the Ministry of Defence at Carlton Gardens yesterday in honour of Dr. De Smedt, Vice-Secretary to the Minister of Defence, Federal Republic of Germany. Others present included:

Herr Hans-Hermann Noebel, Herr H. H. Koenig, Herr H. L. Schleschitz, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Alan Dillier, Mr. G. H. Green, Mr. P. J. Hudson, Mr. A. Alldis and Herr Kinkel.

Dinners

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Mr. B. J. Ford, MP, Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was host at a dinner at the Atheneum Hotel last night in honour of a parliamentary delegation from Costa Rica led by Dr. Carlos Vincente Castro.

National Sporting Club  
The President of the National Sporting Club, Sir Charles Furtado, accompanied by Lady Furtado, attended a reception at Victoria House, London, for members and chief officers of the city council and other guests.

Concrete Society

At a reception in London on

Wednesday evening The Lady Royal of Regens, the President of the Concrete Society, Mr. John Turner, entertained a delegation from the Architectural Society of China, led by their vice-president, Mr. Yuan Chung-shen.

Birthdays today

Sir Charles Cawley, 70; Professor J. D. Cross, 62; Mr. J. G. Fawcett, 62; Sir Richard Grahan, 63; Viscount Maugham, 61; Sir Eric Menzies, 71; Sir Alan Ogilvy, 44; Lieutenant-General Sir Douglas Packard, 74; Sir Edward Playfair, 68; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Kenneth Ruttledge, 70; Professor H. E. Watson, 91.

Latest wills

Residue for charity

Mrs. Betsy Millington Hammond, of Great Yarmouth, left £30,000. After various bequests she left the residue equally among 12 charities.

Other estates include (not, before tax paid: duty not disclosed): Davey, Mr. John Northcote, of Plymouth, £1,639; Isaacson, Mr. Isaac, of Liverpool, £1,000; director of the Clays, Sir Andrew Alcock, of Cambridge, gynaecologist.

£12,268

Tuck, Mr. Edgar Lawrence Newall, of Kensington, solicitor, £19,570.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, May 16, 1952.—Reviewing the probable level of rations for the current year in the food debate in the House of Commons today, Major Lloyd-George, Minister of Food, said that while the general outlook was much the same as last year, there would be more meat, bacon and eggs, but less cheese and butter. An improvement in tea stocks enabled him to increase the ration from 2 to 2½ ozs earlier than was expected.

The meat ration would be increased by 2d from June 15, the same date as the increased price of meat, which had been announced the previous month. The ration would be increased to 7d. There would be no reduction in the price of meat. The rations should not be maintained until the normal increases in supplies permitted an increased ration later in the year.

visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, visited the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, this evening.

The Duke of Gloucester left Heathrow Airport this morning for Venice, an aircraft of The Queen's Flight. His Royal Highness will be attending the celebrations to mark the completion of the restoration of the church of S. Nicolo del Mediodi by the Venice in Peril Fund and will also visit the Campanile Ruge municipal housing project.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE  
May 16: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, left England today for a visit to Sweden.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE  
May 16: Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy this morning visited Elgin City Sawmills Limited, Morayshire.

Princess Alexandra, Her Royal Highness and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy attended a Charity Auction, organized by Berwickshire Farmers and conducted by Berwick Auction Mart Company in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, at Elgin.

Princess Alexandra and the Hon. Angus Ogilvy were present this evening at a Fiduciary Rally, in aid of The Queen's Silver Jubilee Appeal, at the Town Hall, Euston.

The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

annual Horsewoman of the Year trophy was awarded to Miss Linda Prior-Palmer. Other guests included:

Lord and Lady Walpole, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Carr, Mr. and Mrs. John Kneller, Mr. and Mrs. John Knowles, Mr. and Mrs. Sir Michael Wall and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

Receptions

Marquess of Lansdowne  
The Marquess of Lansdowne, chairman of the Franco-British Society, gave a reception at the House of Lords yesterday for members of the society and their wives. A meal was served at the House of Commons earlier.

courtesy of Mr. Percy Grieve, QC, MP, at which the speaker was M. J. Y. Tadié, Director of the French Institute, The French Ambassador and Mme de Beaumarchais, Lord and Lady Stratford and Mme Tadié were among those present.

Lady Mayoress of Westminster

After his election as Lord Mayor of Westminster last night, Alderman Hugh Cubitt, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, gave a reception at Victoria House, London, for members and chief officers of the city council and other guests.

Concrete Society

At a reception in London on

Wednesday evening The Lady Royal of Regens, the President of the Concrete Society, Mr. John Turner, entertained a delegation from the Architectural Society of China, led by their vice-president, Mr. Yuan Chung-shen.

Church debate

on women priests in 1978

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The admission of women to the Church of England priesthood will be voted on again in the church late next year. It was announced yesterday that the House of Bishops of the General Synod had decided at its May meeting that the church ought to wait until the end of the Lambeth Conference which is due to be held next summer.

Bishops from all parts of the Anglican Communion will discuss the ordination of women at the conference. In some provinces of the church, including Canada and the United States, women have already been ordained.

The General Synod decided in 1973 that it had no fundamental objection to the ordination of women, and asked the bishops to bring the matter forward again. It is thought that the time is right.

Since then there has been increased evidence of opposition to the idea in the Roman Catholic Church and in the Orthodox Church.

Mr. R. L. Thomas and Dr. K. M. O'Connell

The engagement is announced between Richard John Nixon, eldest son of Major and Mrs. E. F. Serenoals, of Barnsley, Yorkshire, and a younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Heiser, of Groombridge, Sussex.

Mr. R. L. Thomas and Dr. K. M. O'Connell

The engagement is announced between Richard Lloyd-Jones, elder son of the late Trevor Thomas and Mrs. Alec Golombok, and Kathleen Mary, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank O'Connell, of Brisbane, Australia.

Grants

Grants from the Science Research Council: grants of hydrodynamic pressure and rheological properties and grants from the Royal Society for the encouragement of science and art for two years to advance and develop methods for the manufacture of breast prostheses.

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RGAN  
in ItalyThe second  
most  
influential  
American? P19

## GEC's objections on Drax turbine merger explained to Mr Callaghan

By Malcolm Brown

Sir Arnold Weinstock, managing director of GEC, yesterday met Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister, to outline the reasons why his electrical manufacturing group is opposing plans for creating a national power generator, a project of Regnall-Parsons, in which the state-owned National Enterprise Board would hold the balance of management power.

The meeting was private, with no notes taken. No representatives of the Departments of Industry and Energy, or the NEB, were present, so allowing a frank discussion.

Sir Arnold is understood to have warned the Prime Minister that a Government decision to place important generator orders for the new Drax B power station with the rival C. A. Parsons, part of Regnall-Parsons, before reorganization of the industry would be disastrous and an act of short-term folly.

GEC was only declaring what it felt to be in the best interests of the industry.

Last night, a spokesman for 10 Downing Street stressed that the face-to-face talks, free of observers, had not produced any decisions, nor had it been decided that it should. Sir Arnold had simply brought the Prime Minister up to date on his views.

Meanwhile, angry directors of Regnall-Parsons are planning a special meeting today, and later may issue a public statement deplored the attitude of GEC over efforts to form a new national company with safeguards for Parsons.

They are furious at state-

ments made by Mr Bob Davidson, managing director of GEC-Turbine Generators, during the weekend, that a Government decision to proceed with the reorganization for the Drax station means old-fashioned equipment would be included in the Central Electricity Generating Board at heavy cost to consumers.

Mr Davidson attacked the record of Parsons on reliability of its equipment and claimed GEC, which was happy to compete for the Drax, would not get the order under fair competition.

The latter was now being taken by all parties to the Government's reform, involving the NEB, and dovered an end to rationalization of the turbo-generator manufacturing with the formal announcement of approval for bringing forward the Drax orders does not bode well for Mr Callaghan's direct intervention in the sensitive negotiations taking place on a daily basis.

The Parsons camp feel GEC has unnecessarily damaged the company's overseas sales efforts, and blame Sir Arnold's obstinate stand against creating an enterprise not under GEC control.

They feel their interests will be protected by giving GEC a 49 per cent stake in a new company, with themselves taking 50 per cent, and the NEB assuming the balance of shareholder power.

Mr Callaghan will be urgently consulting Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Sezin, Secretary of State for Energy, on the outcome of his ministerial meeting with Sir Arnold.

They have to assess the chances of an 11th-hour change of heart by GEC.

## Appliance men to fight short week

A thousand hourly paid workers at the GEC-English Electric domestic appliances plant at Liverpool who were put on a three-day week yesterday held a meeting in working hours during the morning.

They voted four to one to give their shop stewards a free hand to oppose the move. They also instructed the stewards to oppose the management call for 400 redundancies although 100 have already been achieved voluntarily.

Statutory notices went out at the weekend to the other 300. The workforce, expressing its determination to continue normal operations without pay on the two layoff days.

The factory is said to be losing £1.5m a year because of increasing costs and falling demands for electric cookers.

The joint shop stewards' committee of the seven unions involved met later to draw up their campaign plan.

They decided to call for a mass walkout at the plant on Thursday, when their representatives will travel to London to lobby Sir Arnold Weinstock, head of the parent company.

## Agreed bid terms for only half of Cavenham stake jolts the market

Agreement has been reached between Générale Occidentale, Sir James Goldsmith's French master company, and the independent directors of the food company Cavenham, in which Générale Occidentale has a 51 per cent stake, on terms of a bid by Générale Occidentale for half the outstanding shares of Cavenham at 155p a share.

The terms will come as a shock to the market, which has been expecting a full bid at around 160p a share. In January Générale Occidentale announced that it was subsequently withdrawn.

Explaining why Générale Occidentale was making only a partial bid this time, Sir James Goldsmith said yesterday that Cavenham shareholders seemed to fall into two categories, those who very much wanted to sell, and those who very much wanted to remain with the company. That bid, he thought, should satisfy both categories.

However, Mr Christopher Balfour, of merchant bankers Hambros, who have been advising Générale Occidentale on the bid, said last night it had proved impossible to reach

agreement on terms of an offer in anything other than cash. He said that Générale Occidentale and some 240m in cash available, which it wished to use in buying out the minority stake in Cavenham, but that the company was not prepared to make a full-scale bid in cash.

Ordinary shareholders may elect to sell either more or less than half their holdings, but the extent to which these elections will be satisfied will be dependent on the level of such elections actually received.

In all, Générale Occidentale is to acquire 25,610,905 shares under the scheme, which is conditional not only on the receipt of acceptances which will give Générale Occidentale over 75 per cent of the Cavenham equity, but also the consent of the Bank of England and the French authorities and the approval of Générale Occidentale shareholders at a meeting to be held on June 6 to the funding of the offer.

It is to be funded principally by the issue by Générale Occidentale of convertible loan stock, which has already been underwritten in France.

Financial Editor, page 19

## Chancellor may detail pay hopes tonight

By David Blake

Mr Healey is still hoping for a pay deal which will limit the increase in earnings during the next pay round to at most 10 per cent.

This figure includes all the special treatments and flexibilities which the Government accepts is necessary, but does not include extra payments for productivity deals, as long as these are self-financing.

The Chancellor may use the occasion of the Confederation of British Industry's annual dinner tonight to reassess his continuing

commitment to pay restraint. He would still like to get a pay deal which spelled out in detail exactly how the provisions of a new pay code would affect each individual. He would thus prefer to have not only a national, agreed, considerably below 10 per cent, but also clear criteria which showed what the new deal would mean.

It is recognized, however, that such fine-tuning may well not be possible. Thinking thus seems to be turning towards a solution under which everyone would be told how much he

was entitled to receive under the "norm" part of the deal, but no figures would be calculated for individuals under the other elements of the pay code.

However, the Treasury is determined that if such a system is used, then the pay increases received on top of the norm will be rigorously costed, for the economy as a whole. In this way it hopes to be able to assure itself and outside opinion that the terms of the agreement meet its target of 10 per cent.

The Chloride Group, which has a total workforce in this country of more than 10,000, is threatening to block future investment unless 3,500 workers on strike accept a new productivity deal which would give them an extra £4 a week.

The group's factories at Cilfion Junction, near Manchester, and Dagenham are closed because of the strike, which started at 6 am today. Management was prepared to sit out a long strike because, as a statement said last night, "Chloride has been paying for productivity which has not been delivered, and the company is not prepared to go on doing so".

A Chloride spokesman said:

"Productivity in Britain is half that at a similar plant of ours in the United States, and is 10 per cent lower than at our factories in Europe.

"We obviously must get a return on our money and if we can't get it adequately here, there are plenty of other countries around the world that are trying to get our money."

He said the group was spending £12m on a new plant at Manchester.

US inventories up

American business inventories increased 0.9 per cent in March while business sales rose 3.4 per cent, the commerce department reports. The March inventory increase was the biggest since the 4 per cent rise last December and follows a 0.7 per cent increase in February. According to the department, March inventories were \$206,780,000 after seasonal adjustment, up \$2,790m or 0.9 per cent, from the \$203,990,000 in February, when inventories rose an upward revised \$2,020m, or 0.7 per cent.

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# THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

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## £400m issue of variable-rate gilts

By John Whitmore  
Financial Correspondent

The Government is to break new ground in the gilt-edged market with its first issue of a variable-rate gilt-edged stock at the end of this month.

It will take the form of £400m of Treasury stock, and will not in the first instance be offered directly to the public.

Instead, the Bank of England will take up the whole issue on its own account and leave investors to bid for the stock from the Government Broker.

The decision to make the

stock available in much the same way as an ordinary "tap" stock rather than through a general offer for sale has been taken because of its experimental nature.

It is felt that making it available in the market through the Government Broker will be a better way of establishing an appropriate

interest payable seems likely to be a margin over the three-month Treasury bill rate established at the weekly Treasury bill tenders. Interest would probably accrue and be paid at six-monthly intervals.

A full prospectus will be

published on May 27, and the Government Broker will be open to receive bids from the market from May 30.

The main idea of introducing a variable rate gilt is to enable the Government to pursue a regular funding policy.

At present when interest rates are low, investors tend to be reluctant to purchase conventional gilts bearing a fixed rate of interest because they fear that a rise in the general level of interest rates will both deny them the possibility of higher income and also leave them vulnerable to capital losses.

With a variable-rate gilt,

however, the investor has the prospect of rising income if interest rates are moving higher and, because the coupon on his stock will also be rising, of relatively stable capital value.

Although variable rate stocks are generally considered to be more attractive when interest rates are rising, the authorities are keen to stress that the launch of this variable rate coupon at this particular moment is not necessarily to be taken as a sign that the Government view is that interest rates are soon to start moving upwards once again.

Financial Editor, page 19

Scots hotel charges for golf season back to par

The Open, one of the four top tournaments in world golf, will not be the money spinner it might have been for some hoteliers in the tournament area around Turnberry on the Ayrshire coast.

The Price Commission saw that yesterday after hearing of a golfing enthusiast who made a provisional booking at one hotel for the tournament week only to be told later that the tariff had been doubled. To protect the wallets of golfing enthusiasts, the commission asked for the first time its powers under section 6 of the Counter-Inflation Act 1973.

Yesterday it served notice on a statutory 14-day waiting period. The commission will issue notices requiring proprietors to restrict their charges for food, drink and accommodation to the tariff in effect from May 12 for the period between July 1 to 10 inclusive, encompassing the full week of the championship.

All hotels in the Kyle and Carrick and Cunningham districts of the Strathclyde region are affected, as are those in the Wigton areas of Dumfries and the Galloway region.

The commission realizes that a seemingly acceptable Scheme is in operation, Mr Stern's personal significance and a premium would be payable by guests above the standard season tariff operative in May. Those hotels in the area operating a simple high-season tariff will not have to comply with the order.

The 4-star Turnberry Hotel, part of British Transport Hotels, is charging £23.50 plus service and VAT for the week for a single with a sea view, bed and breakfast, its normal high season tariff. Thus, it will not have to roll back its tariff. The problems have occurred, it is thought, with lesser establishments which view the Open comes within most hoteliers' "high season" and that a premium would be payable by guests above the standard season tariff operative in May. Those hotels have come to the conclusion that the time is now right to move against him.

The SEC had accused Milgo of securities law violations for trying to thwart an exchange offer by Applied Digital Data Systems of Milgo stock.

The SEC had accused Milgo and Racial of making "untrue statements" and not disclosing all details of the Applied Digital offer.

The injunction issued by the court without admitting any serious law violations.

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# Provisional April retail sales show slight improvement

By Caroline Atkinson

A touch of spring pushed shop sales in April up from March's very low level, but it was not slight to alter the underlying depression in retail trade.

Provisional figures released yesterday by the Department of Trade showed that sales' volume in the three months to April was 4 per cent below that of the previous three months, despite the nearly 1 per cent boost last month.

This year has been a very bad one so far for retailers, with the average volume of sales in the first four months well below last year's level.

It is too soon to know whether the upturn in April heralds a change in the trend. One month's figures alone cannot give a reliable guide to what is happening, and the first estimates of retail sales are often guesswork.

However, it seems likely that the sharp fall in spending this year is now bottoming out. It was in part a reaction to the squeeze on real incomes which began in the last quarter of 1976 but was not then reflected in sales.

A sustained upturn in consumer spending, however, is unlikely to come for several months. Real living standards are still falling as the present price policy is holding wage increases below the rate of inflation.

April's provisional figure is in line with the lower sales volumes since January, and

## RETAIL SALES

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales, and value of new instalment credit, released by the Department of Industry:

	Percentage change latest 3 months on previous 3 months	New sales by volume	Instalment credit £m
1976/7 Q1	+6.2	844	
Q2	+1.1	875	
Q3	+4.9	915	
Q4	-1.5	972	
1977 Q1	-12.3	1,020	

p provisional

suggests that while the worst may be over, retail trade is now on a plateau.

In value terms, shop sales were 12 per cent up in April on a year ago. The average value of sales in the first four months of 1977 was 14 per cent higher than the same time a year ago.

## 500 to lose jobs at BSC oil platform yard in Fife

By Peter Hill

Industrial Correspondent

British Steel announced yesterday that its North Sea platform building yard at Methil, Fife, is to be placed on a care and maintenance basis this summer and about 500 men will lose their jobs.

Mr Ian Munro, chief executive of RDL North Sea, British Steel's subsidiary, said at a press conference that the yard would remain in business, although construction work on the site is to end in about two weeks. The labour force of about 650 would be run down to about 150 when the last order was completed. At its peak the yard employed about 1,450 workers.

Mr Munro said employees kept on would be involved in pursuing business and preparing bids as well as maintaining facilities.

The company, he said, was now preparing a bid for a platform jacket required by Conoco for the Murchison field.

High rates of productivity had been achieved, said Mr Munro, and in the past four months not a single hour had been lost through industrial disputes. Platform building yards, he noted, had been existing on orders placed in 1974-75 because the oil industry had not made any major commitment since then.

All the yards are facing a bit of a precipice. But things are changing now. There has been some speculation about the future, but Methil is staying in the North Sea business.

Yesterday the EEC Commission announced that it was making grants totalling £1,093,040 available to alleviate redundancies in the United Kingdom steel industry.

A total of £1m will go to 1,325 men who have lost their jobs at works owned by the Dupont group at Llanelli and Briton Ferry and £93,040 will go towards readaptation schemes for 308 men affected by closures of BSC works at Workington and Rotherham.

Unions were upset by Courtaulds' decision to shut the Skelmersdale mill which had been purpose-built, with considerable state financial aid, a decade earlier.

Thus the British company had decided to extend the performance of its proven system.

By 1985, EMI believes, about 6,000 computer-based scanners would be needed worldwide. So far EMI has installed over 600, and has more than 200 on order.

## NEDO urges wider preference for ICL

Preferential Government procurement has had an important role to play in establishing ICL as Europe's leading indigenous computer manufacturer, by helping to provide a stable home base and by raising credibility overseas, according to the National Economic Development Office's computer sector working party.

In a statement issued yesterday the working party urges a continuation and indeed an extension of the Government's preference policy towards the United Kingdom-owned industry. This should include preferential computer manufacture.

The working party is asking the Government to consider five main points in reviewing its procurement policy. First, ICL is continuing to meet strong competition from the major American manufacturers, which enjoy the benefits of a big home market and an extensive programme of military applications from which non-American companies are effectively barred.

Secondly, the French government has recently introduced a form of preferential procure-

## Computer news

ment from CII-Honeywell Bull which goes well beyond the current United Kingdom preference for ICL by guaranteeing a minimum level of turnover from government business.

Thirdly, the ICL preference does not cover the whole of the United Kingdom public sector. Nationalised industries and local authorities have been asked only to "take note" of the central government policy.

Fourthly, with the increasing use of minicomputers for general-purpose data processing, many public sector computer purchases are likely to fall outside the existing procurement policy, which covers only computers of Atlas power or above.

If a major national effort is made to establish a competitive United Kingdom minicomputer industry, the Government as one part of this effort should give serious consideration to extending the procure-

## 180 more jobs may go in New Town

By R. W. Shakespeare

More trouble has arisen over another threatened factory closure at Skelmersdale New Town, Lancashire, where unemployment is already running at more than 20 per cent, after the closure of Courtaulds' big weaving mill at the end of last year.

The latest shutdown has been announced by Potter and Brunfield (AMF), a company that makes electrical relays. It plans to close the factory in August with the loss of 180 jobs.

Yesterday all shop floor workers were sent home because of a company "sit-in" by eight women members of the white collar union ASTMS.

They are continuing action started earlier by members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in support of demands for better severance terms. The sit-in is aimed at preventing any finished goods from leaving the factory.

Yesterday the 8 women, all married with children, claimed that they had been locked into the factory by the management. The sit-in began last week after the collapse of talks on severance pay between the management and union representatives.

December the Courtaulds shutdown at Skelmersdale meant the loss of more than 1,000 jobs and this followed the earlier closure of another big factory, the Thorn group's colour television tubes plant. These closures have turned the new town into one of the country's worst unemployment black spots.

## Union move over weaving mill

By Our Northern Industrial Correspondent

Textile union leaders have approached the Government for help in setting up a workers cooperative to reopen Courtaulds weaving mill at Skelmersdale.

EMI is concentrating on research to achieve this breakthrough, he said. But in the meantime an obsession with technology for its own sake in what was a multi-million pound market was obscuring the need for improved diagnostic performance.

Mr Jack Brown, the general secretary of the Amalgamated Textile Union, was not prepared to explain the plans but he said that further meetings would be taking place.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Cavenham—yet another ingenious scheme

Mr J. Cavenham's reputation in the City has been poor since he was up to. Each deal seemed more complicated than the last. The motives for doing the deal were frequently unclear. The convoluted structures of his empire, until recently at his disposal, defied comprehension, and the prices at which he did deals were sometimes open to criticism.

With Cavenham, Sir James had the opportunity to put some of things right. Bidding for a minority had logic in its favour, and, after the failure of his first bid in January, might so have been seen as offering terms.

That chance has now been lost. Instead of a straightforward cash offer for the outstanding shares Sir James has come up with yet another ingenious scheme. The terms may not be fair, and the reasons for a partial bid may or may not be valid, but it is certain that they will confuse shareholders, and breed yet more suspicion within the stock and market that have accumulated over the years.

floating rate issue

est run on

the way

one thing that has been musing the authorities about launching a variable rate gilt is that the launch would be taken in financial markets as the sign that interest rates are officially considered to be bottomed out.

Whether or not rates have, in fact, bottomed out, the gilt market need not necessarily be the launch of the "floater" as a sign that the Treasury is taking in terms of refunding new money, and the leading proponents of the variable rate bonds have, after all, been pressing for the authorities to test run the variable rate concept well before it is really needed. This is precisely what the authorities now appear to be doing.

The test run is, of course, ended not only for the buyers, but also for the sellers, who are anxious to get a feel of the potential buyers, the kind of price those buyers are prepared to pay, and the kind of effect a "floater" could have on other stocks and general market management.

Hence the novel approach to be taken, with the idea of a public issue put aside in favour of the Government broker operating the stock as a "tap" from the word go.

As far as the coupon on the new stock goes, the authorities appear, quite wisely, to have jettisoned any idea of an historic coupon fixed at the start of a given period (as with the EC issue) and instead to go for a current running yield.

In other words, it seems that no coupon will be pegged to a weekly treasury bill rate, and that weekly interest will accrue over the six months between dividend payments.

It keeps the interest rate as close as possible to current returns over the period between dividend payments. But it does leave some technical problems to be ironed out, notably in relation to the period between the moment when a stock normally goes ex-dividend and the actual payment of the dividend.

It also means that the investors will tend, depending on the movement of interest rates, to be getting no more than the average rate of interest over a month period.

## Business Diary: BL's MacGregor • Sir Richard returns

news that Ian MacGregor is stepping down first as chief executive and then as chairman of Amex, the United States listing company, raises the question: is he the next chairman of British Leyland?

He is a director of British Leyland and will in theory be available in October. It is said, not confirmed, that he was one of the people invited to and in a chairman open the bath 18 months ago of Sir Donald Edwards.

At that time, so the stories go, MacGregor still had a couple of years of contract to do, and Amex were not amused at the idea of his leaving early. The British Leyland job thus went to Sir Richard Dobson, acting chairman of British American Tobacco.

Sir Richard began to look as he were regretting his acceptance as the toolroom strike got under way and then dragged on. His chairmanship is perceived. He now seems to like the view that the board

should stick together even if the man won't.

He might be willing to hang on for another year, unless, of course, there were a suitable successor in the wings and therefore no need for an embarrassingly long search for his replacement.

MacGregor, a Scot, would make a most interesting choice—assuming that Leyland survives to have another chairman. His selection would give some clout in government questions for his less a reputation as an autocrat.

His directness would be useful if the Government were determined not to be pushy about with British Leyland, but could work either way: he can cut through to the heart of a company's problems and can inspire loyalty, but he could also antagonize the men.

He was uncharacteristically non-committal when we spoke to him in the United States. He allowed that he was looking for things to do in retirement, but as for Leyland he said he would cross that bridge when he came to it.

He has a house in Scotland but is not domiciled here for tax reasons. For the first five years of his retirement he will also have a \$3,000-plus consultancy with Amex, which will take up to a third of his time.

Steelman

The former chairman of British Rail, Sir Richard Marsh, is once more to sign his toe into the hot water that is the public sector—but this time it will be as a customer, rather than as a supplier.

Sir Richard has agreed to become chairman of the British

Iron and Steel Consumers' Council, which is supposed to protect the interests of steel using industries.

This will renew his acquaintance with the steel industry, for as Minister of Power at the time of nationalization he was responsible for the late Lord Melchett's becoming the first chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

He will be expected to chair the organizations meetings (he gets "expenses only") and will be leading the BISCC team in any negotiations with the British Steel Corporation and private steelmakers' group, the British Independent Steel Producers' Association.

The council has lost some ground, first with the untimely death of former chairman Jack Frye and then with the resignation earlier this year of Len Tide, its secretary. John Safford, the new secretary and a former NEDO official, is determined, however, to make the organization more prominent and evidently thinks Sir Richard a useful ally.

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Glitter rock

Louis Gérard will be making quite a splash in the City tonight when £30,000 worth, or more, of his creations are

inflation corner: Marks and Spencer is removing the automatic coin dispensers from some tills because it says, so many customers are now handing over £5 notes instead of £1. It is quicker to give change by hand.

modelled" by celebrities in The Night of a Million Jewels at the Mansion House.

The work of the Parisian jeweller has been made available for a fund-raising evening in aid of the Save the Children Fund, which will be attended by Princess Anne, the president of the fund. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Sir Robin and Lady Gillett, will receive the guests.

There is solid business sense behind all the rubber-necking, however. Gérard recently opened a salon in London and he is willing to undergo the risk and expense of transporting the collection (and insuring it at Lloyd's) for the showcase royal function gives him.

He was general manager of the jewellers Van Cleef and Arpels until eight years ago, when he set up his own firm with the financial backing of the late Roger Bellon, the French chemicals industrialist.

Gérard (up to £25m for a ruby, earring and necklace set) told Business Diary yesterday: "There are fabulous fortunes everywhere. Arabs are only a small part of my business."

He says he is a jeweller not for the money, but to feed his passion for working in and with the best. The only jewelry he wore yesterday, apart from the "house" watch and lighter he gives to sooth the husbands of the women who buy his crea-

THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 17 1977

Between a quarter and a third of wages council employers have been found by inspectors to under-pay some of their workers

## No let-up in the low wage 'blitz'

The Low Pay Unit continues to build up pressure on the Government to make employers observe the statutory pay minimum fixed by wages councils for some million employees. Eighty MPs, some from all parties, have signed a House of Commons early day motion, sponsored by Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour MP for Perry Barr, Birmingham, supporting the unit's aims.

Mr J. Grant, the responsible parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of Employment, is no less anxious to make the wages council orders effective, so that he can discover how to do it. He has been having talks with representatives of the TUC, the Confederation of British Industry, the Retail Consortium and the chairman of wages councils to see what they can do.

The position has been getting worse in the past few years. Between a quarter and a third of employers have been found by inspectors to under-pay some of their employees and one in seven of the workers had been underpaid. In other words, probably substantially more than 100,000 of the 418,000 employers covered are consistently breaking the law and more than 400,000 workers are getting less than the low minimum rates and holiday pay to which they are legally entitled.

The minimum pay in retail

food shops outside large cities in England and Wales is £30. In licensed restaurants it is £27.92, to be increased by £2.50 under a Stage Two settlement next month.

There are 130 wages inspectors who are visiting 7 per cent of the establishments each year, so that on average an employer might expect a routine visit once every 13 years, but the quota has not been reached in the last couple of years. It takes a lot of visits to cover many workers, because the concerns employ on average only seven or eight, and the inspectors tend to pay most attention to the larger ones.

The most obvious step to improve the position is to increase the number of inspectors. The Low Pay Unit has consistently pressed for this, comparing the number with the larger force of some 1,500 enforcement inspectors. The TUC also favours it.

Mr Grant would certainly like more and will no doubt do what he can to get them, but present limits on government spending are an obstacle.

The position will be slightly, but only slightly, eased by the coming abolition of the Road Haulage Wages Council and by the transfer of responsibility for the disabled persons quota to the Employment Service Agency.

Mr Grant tentatively suggested the possibility of raising funds to pay for a larger inspectorate by imposing a levy on defaulting employers or on wages council employers generally, while pointing out that this would depart from the general principle that the state pays for the enforcement of the law. This idea received short shrift when he put it to employers' organizations and even the TUC was against it.

More than a quarter had been under-paying and owed almost £100,000 to the 1,500 employers covered.

The blitz achieved the publicity, which was one of its objectives, with somewhat embarrassing results. The number of individual inquiries increased until by December there were 28,000, twice the usual number, of which had to be dealt with, though one-third came from workers not covered by wages councils.

There will be more blitzes.

The Low Pay Unit has pressed for more prosecutions and a higher level of fines. It is not usual to prosecute for first offences, except in very bad cases, and even with second offences there is often difficulty in getting workers to give evidence against their employers. In any event the preparation of cases takes up a lot of an inspector's time.

There were only three prosecutions as a result of the blitz and three other prosecutions are expected shortly. It has been decided that inspectors should make a larger number of second visits, which presumably will uncover more second offences and so lead to somewhat more prosecutions.

Efforts are also being made to overcome the difficulty of getting evidence.

While the maximum fine, though recently increased, is

still only £100, offending employers may face large sums in arrears of pay.

The practice of not normally prosecuting first offenders is generally accepted because it is realized that a large proportion of employers and employees are unaware of the wages council system and, when they are aware of it, fail to understand the complicated orders. When Mr Rooker and his friends were seeking support for their Commons motion, they found that not all MPs were aware of the existence of wages councils.

The first priorities must therefore be to make wages councils known and to simplify their orders, which have become even more complex since the incomes policy began.

Mr William Kain, director of the Multiple Shops Federation, suggested that in wages council industries the obligatory written contract of employment should include reference to the worker's rights under the system.

The main problem is not to put deliberate law-breakers, but to inform the ignorant and usually well-meaning.

Eric Wigham

## Arthur Burns: the second most influential American?

Frank Vogl

Dr Arthur Burns looks the sort of man a Hollywood film director would cast as an elderly university don. His suits are usually rather rumpled, his pipe is constantly clenched between closed lips, his eyes are always alert behind his rimless spectacles and his thick grey hair is invariably parted neatly down the middle in a style fashionable half a century ago.

The chairman of the Federal Reserve System hardly looks like the tough, cunning and skilled politician that he is. He is often hard to imagine him, when he is standing somewhat awkwardly at a cocktail party or diplomatic reception, as the man who according to a recent opinion poll is considered today second only to President Carter as the most influential American.

He is often slow and gentle, manner, like his appearance, are deceptive—as most Congressmen, businessmen and foreign government leaders are only too well aware.

Dr Burns was appointed to his present office by former President Nixon and his position was strengthened by former President Ford.

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growth targets, and he has done so in ways that have left the Fed stronger, rather than weaker.

He has, of course, made numerous blunders, most particularly, perhaps, his swift adoption of extremely tight monetary policies in 1974, which probably resulted in the recession being deeper and longer than might have been the case. But at that time he accurately sensed the degree of support he could obtain from the then Republican administration for his policies, which ensured that his own position was secure.

He is a fighter—and a shrewd one at that—and his ability accurately to gauge the moods of his political masters, be they Congress or the White House, has ensured his survival and rising influence so much that there is now serious speculation that President Carter might even ask him to remain as chairman of the Fed when his seven-year term ends next February (his term as one of the governors of the Fed does not end until 1985).

The strength of his position at home has undoubtedly added to his international prestige, which has to some extent been enhanced by his ability to survive longer than most of his foreign contemporaries. The central bank chiefs still meet

regularly at the Bank for International Settlements, but for the most part the participants at these meetings are younger than those who sought to guide the monetary system through the chaos of the early 1970s.

Dr Burns, who was 73 at the end of last month, must no doubt miss the company of former leaders, Mr A. F. O'Brien of Britain, Dr. G. H. Stiglitz of the United States, Mr M. Healy of Ireland, Dr. Helmut Schmidt, ex-chancellor of West Germany, and Guido Carli of Italy, at the sumptuous dinners at Basle's Euler Hotel.

Dr Burns has been open to new and novel ideas in the international arena and his lack of strong doctrinaire views

has allowed him to take in his stride the moves away from the gold standard, the devaluation of the dollar and the floating of exchange rates, than he directly played a key role in instigating.

He has won for himself a special position of respect among European political leaders. Mr G. D. Jackson, the Canadian, Mr. J. H. Kelly of Ireland, Dr. Schmidt, ex-chancellor of West Germany, and Guido Carli of Italy, at the sumptuous dinners at Basle's Euler Hotel.

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## A.N.Z. GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Incorporated in the State of Victoria, Australia with limited liability)

### HOLDING COMPANY FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LIMITED

# Europa

## Currencies stronger but economies stay sluggish

The monetary situation in all our countries is still on the mend. One wonders, however, how far this trend is likely to go, since the economic situation has not improved to the same extent, except in West Germany.

Our two tables, tracing monetary and economic developments, illustrate the growing divergence. There can be no sustained firmness of our currencies, against the dollar at least, despite falling interest rates and the persistence of relatively high rates of inflation.

Britain continues to provide the sun with a tumbling minimum lending rate and swelling reserves. It is worth logging the progress of this uninterrupted "deceleration" during the month of April 1977 alone: from 94 per cent on the 1st, MLR is reduced to 91 per cent on the 7th, 9 per cent on the 14th, 83 per cent on the 21st and 83 on the 29th.

The banks' base rate is now 64 per cent whereas inflation is still running at 15 per cent, while wages are rising by only 9 per cent. The budget deficit is down to 6.5 per cent of gross national product (from 10 per cent), while the trade deficit itself fell sharply in April.

Ireland, which has at last obtained loans of \$530m (about £312m) from the IMF and \$500m from the EEC, can draw satisfaction from the fact that its currency is relatively stable despite the abolition of the last vestiges of the compulsory devaluation of imports.

At the same time, Italian interest rates are now joining the downward trend, and overnight rates are down from 16 per cent to 15 per cent, while there has been a sharp fall in Eurolira rates. Inflation, however, remains at 18 per cent.

France, where the currency remains very firm (against the dollar at least), overnight money has become considerably cheaper, although the

mood has been more hesitant over the last few weeks.

In West Germany calculations are based on real interest rates, which have been adjusted for inflation, especially in the long term. Thus with a rate of inflation which, after seasonal factors, has only marginally fallen back to 4 per cent, the monetary authorities can now compensate interest rates of 63 and even 61 per cent over as much as 12 years.

The strength of the pound, the lira and the franc is to some extent a reflection of the weakness of the dollar, and the cuts in interest rates in these countries are only possible if American rates remain relatively low. But the general factor which, more than any other, explains the exceptional position of short-term interest rates (as reflected in the new comparisons with inflation) is undoubtedly the weakness in demand for credit in the private sector.

Maurice Bommensath

### THE ECONOMY

	Growth (%) industrial production (1)	Wage increases (2)	Budget deficit (3, 4)	Stability trade balance (2, 4)	Inflation rate (%) (1)
United States	6	+7	8	-3.5%	2%
West Germany	4	+3	7	(-662,000m)	8%
France	3	+2	12	(-DM47,000m)	5%
Britain	3	-2	9	(-FF15,000m)	9%
Italy	-1	-8	28	(-£7,500m)	15%
				(-E400m)	18%
				(-530,000m lire)	18%

(1) Three-month average expressed as annual rate.

(2) Estimate for 1977.

(3) Estimate for fiscal 1977-78.

(4) As percentage of gdp and in national currency.

### MONETARY AND FINANCIAL EFFECTS

Interest rate (per cent) Annual growth per cent in money supply (M1) (5)	Foreign exchange rate					
	Day to Day (5)	Day to Day (5)	Against the dollar (6)	Against a basket of 6 currencies (7)	Change in stock exchange (per cent) Index (8)	
Dollar	8	52	6.50	—	101.9 (101.5)	0
Deutschmark	6	4	6.50	2.38 (+1.3%)	111.2 (112.7)	(+4) (+1%)
Franc	7	9	9.60	1.98 (+0.4%)	92.3 (91.9)	(-5) (-30)
Pound	2	8	8.50	1.718 (0%)	86.2 (86.1)	12 (+23)
Lira	(21)	15	20	987 (0%)	78.5 (78.4)	(-2) (-12)

(5) Six months moving average expressed at annual rate.

(6) Figures in parentheses give percentage change in last month.

(7) End December 1976 = 100. Figure in parentheses gives position last month. Currencies are five listed on table plus Japanese yen.

(8) Change in previous month. Figure in parentheses gives change over previous 12 months.

### Business appointments

## Changes at International Computers

Five senior executives of ICL have gone on to the board of its main operating subsidiary, International Computers. They are: Mr G. Collyer, Mr T. D. Gurney, Mr E. S. Mack, Mr P. W. Murphy and Dr C. M. Wilson.

Mr Bruce W. Mitchell, vice-president and manager of the Bank of America N.T. & S.A., London, and Mr Robert E. Vanden Bosch, chairman and general manager of Harris Trust and Savings Bank, London, have become chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the American Banks Association of London in succession to Mr Michael R. Gowan and Mr Harrison F. Tennenbaum, who are returning to the United States.

Mr Robert Yohannan, vice-president of The First National Bank of Chicago, has been made new area manager for the United States, Ireland and Scandinavia and also general manager, London branch.

EMI Film Distributors, now renamed EMI Films, has acquired distribution assets of British Lion Films, which has ceased to trade. The board of EMI Films is headed by Mr Nat Cohen, executive chairman, with Mr Michael Spokes and Mr Ernest Spokes as joint managing directors.

Mr Morris Young, managing director of United Electronics in Britain, is to succeed Mr Frank Poole as chairman of United Electronics Film Distributors. Mr Poole, due to retire in 1978, becomes vice-chairman.

Mr Alastair Mitchell-Innes, at present vice-chairman of Wall's Biscuits, is to join Brooke Bond Ltd on July 1 as chief executive of the United Kingdom meat division.

Mr M. S. Lee has been made a director of Winchester London Trust.

Mr B. F. Hayward and Mr A. Longman join the board of GEC. Mr Joseph Schuldenfrei and M. Alain de Berc have been made directors of Maidenhead Investments (Holdings) Ltd.

Mr William N. Berkowitz has joined the board of Collier-Bazemore Europe.

Mr Ian Ross has become vice-president of Chemical Bank's petroleum and minerals group, Europe.

Mr Patrick Cassey is now managing director of Wymplant Group.

Mr Donald Glaser and Mr Michael Francis have joined the board of Bristish Biscuits.

Mr Lee Hill, previously deputy chairman, becomes chairman of R. Mansell & Sons, Mr Bernard Adams remains managing director.

Mr J. K. Lion, senior partner of Philipp & Co., becomes vice-chairman of The Metal Group & Exchange Co. (London Metal Exchange) and Mr I. E. J. Foster, managing director of H. F. Thompson & Sons, joins the board.

Mr W. Quantin, C. Mackenzie has been made financial director of Standard Textile Industries.

Mr E. van Velsen has become chairman and Mr K. H. Baker, deputy chairman, of Baxter, Fell & Co.

## Parisian disposals take heat off Chesterfield's interest burden

By John Breman

The effect of property sales on interest costs, and consequently on earnings, is shown in 1976's results. Gross income increased slightly from £2.5m to £2.6m, but interest charges were clapped from £1.4m to £1.94m, leaving pre-tax profits nearly doubled at £1.5m. Dividends have been increased by 5.5p gross to the maximum permissible to 5.5p gross.

Pre-tax profits exclude £194,000 of development outgoings capitalised in this country and £22,000 capitalised in France. In both cases completion of developments are expected significantly to reduce the rolled-up interest charge this

year. Development costs are offset by a £2m surplus on property sales, £400,000 of which relates to the French disposals.

Mr Roger Winstone, group managing director, believes that the disposals programme is now completed and that, with interest charges under control, Chesterfield will benefit more directly from reversionary income growth over the next two years as seven and 14-year rent reviews on the United Kingdom portfolio fall in. The shares, which have been attracting strong speculative support thanks to Allstate Assurance's 17 per cent share stake, fall 7p to 214p on the results.

Mr J. Harry Hooper, chair-

man of Armstrong Equipment, says that detailed planning will now start for the move of manufacturing operations from the Eastgate (Beverley) plant and Armstrong Patents to the Hedon Road site.

The purchase of the Hedon Road building will allow expansion of some of the business extensions conducted at the Eastgate factory at Beverley.

But, in addition, an automotive exhaust system manufacturing plant is also expected to be developed on the site.

Armstrong already has exhaust system plants operating at Cheshire and Blackburn.

Although moving from its Eastgate factory, Armstrong will still retain a major manufacturing plant at Beverley of about 250,000 sq ft of buildings. This is at Swinemoor Land.

By Our Financial Staff

Following last week's news of Armstrong Equipment's expansion on the Continent with its first acquisition in France, comes the announcement of further expansion by this Melton-based automotive components manufacturer.

In the name of its major

manufacturing subsidiary, Armstrong Patents, Armstrong Equipment has exchanged contracts with Matton Business Systems to buy the Hedon Road, Hull, factory premises occupied by Imperial Typewriters, together with 18 acres of land immediately to the rear of the factory. The site consists of a modern office block, factory buildings and canteen block of high-grade construction of about 280,000 sq ft.

Pre-tax profits in the six months reached £301,000 and Mr Martin Cohen, chairman, claims that Teesland is now one of the most active and profitable property development and investment companies in the United Kingdom. He argues that the high political risk of the industry does not preclude developments and that companies are ready to sit back and become "glorified rent-collecting agencies".

Backing his words, with

actions Mr Cohen is considering opportunities for a public listing.

He favours a reverse bid

into a sleepy quoted group

rather than a direct flotation and with GEC's support such a move will be sooner rather than later.

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# Stock Exchange Prices

## Firm at the close

Account Days: Dealings Began, May 9. Dealings End, May 20. § Contango Day, May 23. Settlement Day, May 31.  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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We need a person combining marketing skills, ability to write and edit copy, and a writing ability to run office for a new Society. Salary £3,000 per annum. Write to: Sir Stanley L. Alcock, 22a Beauchamp Place, W1X 2AB.

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## Appointments Vacant also on page 9

## Head of Information Services

Coopers & Lybrand, an international firm of accountants and management consultants, wishes to appoint a Head of Information Services to be responsible for organising and managing the well-established Library and Information Services with a staff of four and for carrying out commercial information services.

Applications are invited from qualified librarians or graduates aged over 25, with experience of commercial or financial information services. Conditions of service, in modern offices in the City of London, include a competitive salary, a five day week and four weeks annual holiday. Please send, in confidence, brief but comprehensive details of career and salary to date, including a daytime telephone number, to:

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### GENERAL VACANCIES

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The purpose is to enable the Council and its associated colleges to study the problems of the teaching profession in courses of initial training. The appointment will be for one year with possible renewal for a second year and will commence in Autumn 1977. Some experience of research as well as of teaching is desirable but candidates with different backgrounds will be considered. Salary will be according to guidance and will be within the scale £2,140-£2,357 including London Weighting.

Further particulars of the post may be obtained from: Dr. R. J. G. Smith, R. A. S. Secretary, Council for National Academic Awards, 342-352 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EP, to whom applications should be submitted by 24 May, 1977.

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237 Pentonville Road, London N1 3NJ.  
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#### COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL ACADEMIC AWARDS

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#### PUBLICATIONS OFFICER

APRIL 54, 113-14, 149 inclusive of London Weighting.

This established post includes responsibilities for the production of a variety of Council publications, maintenance of a small reference library and the provision of a general enquiry and public relations service. Offered to applicants with an interest in publishing, requiring an intelligent and creative approach to information handling, ranging from regulations for guidance to news bulletins for information.

Prospective applicants should preferably be graduates in an appropriate field and/or be able to demonstrate relevant experience. Salary will be £2,709 plus £100 per annum. Applications to: Mrs. K. R. Booth, Assistant Secretary, to whom applications should be submitted by 27 May, 1977.

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+

BIRTHS

22

BRADLEY—On May 12, to Joanne

and Edward Halton.

BROWN—On May 13th, at

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deceased—(The late Dr. and

Mrs. John Brown) a son, Nicholas,

and a daughter, Linda.

CARLSON—On May 13th, to

John and Jean Carlson

and Emma—sister for Charles

and John—two sons, Nicholas

and John, and a daughter,

Elizabeth (Katherine) a son,

John, and a daughter,

Elizabeth (Katherine) a son